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MAGAZINE

21st November, 1987

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NO ONE LIKES US WE DON'T

Rangers fans will recognise the headline to this column as the words to the club song 'Follow Follow' and they just about sum up the way we feel at Ibrox at the moment.

Here in Scotland, you either love Rangers or you hate them. There is no middle ground, and the more successful we are, the more people want to have a go at us and destroy us.

Graeme Souness has seemingly bought success for the club, and that has brought out a lot of resentment. People are jealous of the big transfer fees we've paid and the massive following we attract.

I don't mind admitting that the last month has been a real ordeal for me. I've gone through a personal crisis and have had to come to terms with the fact that being captain of Rangers means living under constant pressure.

My phone has hardly stopped ringing since I was sent-off against Celtic last month. There was talk of banning me from playing for England, I've had a four-match ban slapped on me and one newspaper has even branded me a thug.

The week after the Celtic game was probably the worst of my life. Nobody needs the kind of aggro I was getting and I asked myself if it was worth carrying on.

To make matters worse, I was naive enough to hint that landing in court could be the final straw for me.

Rumour

And now that fear has become a reality and I've been charged with conduct likely to cause a breach of the peace, the rumour that I'm set to quit Rangers is spreading like wildfire.

I cannot discuss the alleged incidents which have landed me in the dock, but I can tell you that I will not be leaving Ibrox.

My name has been linked very strongly with a £1 million move to Spurs, but as far as I'm concerned it's pure speculation designed to sell more newspapers.

I'm very flattered that I am apparently so highly rated by Terry Venables, but there is no real reason why I want to leave Rangers.

And Graeme Souness has made it clear that there's no way he'll

sell me, so that is the end of the matter.

I've had a real heart to heart talk with my parents about my situation. I've spoken to my friends and had a lot of feedback from our fans. They've convinced me I should carry on at Rangers and lead the club all the way to the top.

TERRY BUTCHER Column

Now I can't wait to get my ban over and get on with proving all my critics wrong.

That's just what Ian Durrant has had to do in the last few weeks and the lad has been brilliant.

There's nothing to him, but the way he got stuck in against Gornik Zabrze and in the Skol Cup Final against Aberdeen was a real eye-opener.

Ian is very much a Glaswegian. He likes to go out on the town on Saturday nights, but because he's a Rangers player people were constantly baiting him and he had to keep backing out of trouble or do what kids do in these situations.

In the end, the pressure of playing for Rangers became too

much for him and he announced he wanted to leave.

But the Boss came down very heavily on him and really let him know where his loyalties lay. Ian has responded magnificently on the park and will be a Scotland international for many years to come.

Pressure

I live with a different kind of pressure. As captain of one of the biggest clubs in the world, the demands on my time are amazing. I thought myself and my family had come to terms with it last year, but it just seems to escalate.

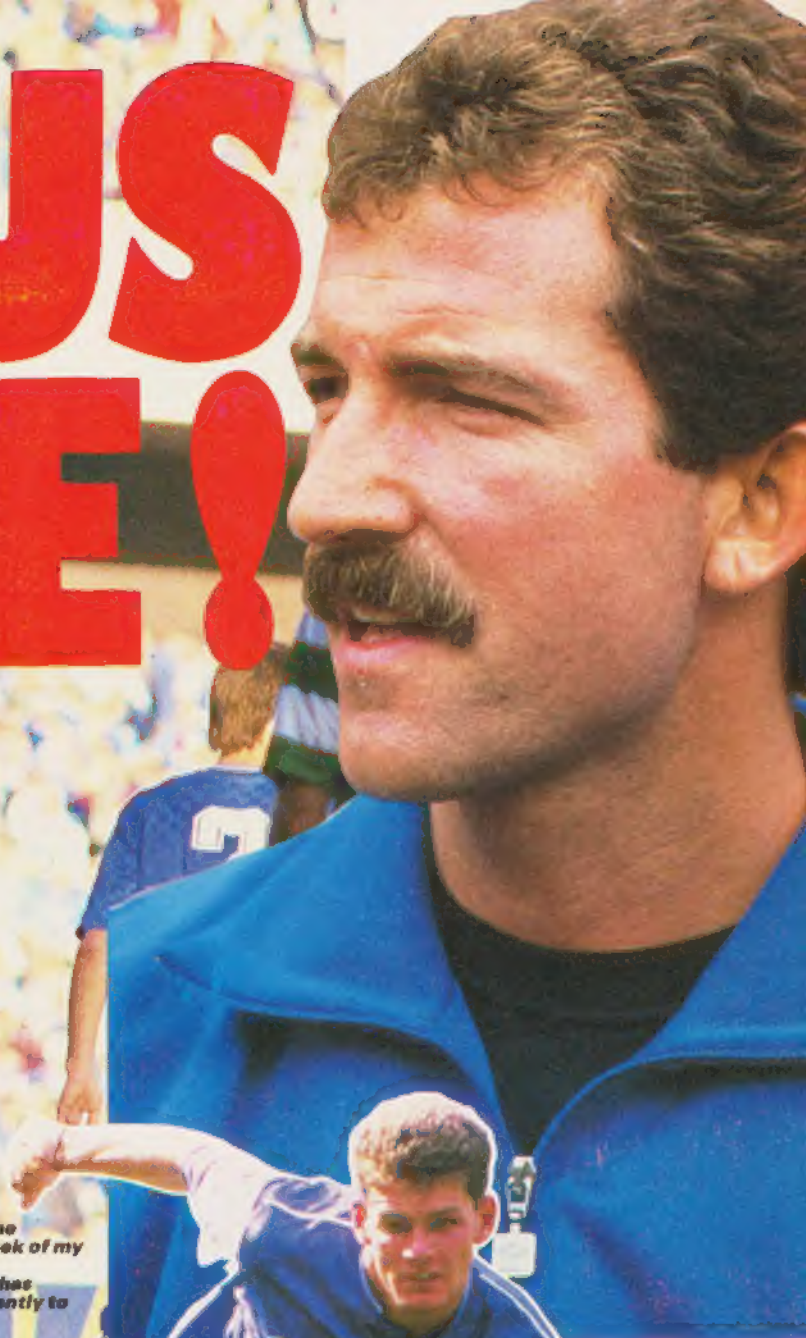
I'm out every day after training, opening a supermarket,



MAKES US CARE!



LEFT: The Celtic game started the worst week of my life.
BELOW: Ian Durrant has responded magnificently to the Boss' blast.



presenting prizes at a branch of our fan club or attending some sort of charity function.

And I daren't even read the newspapers any more because every day they print some ridiculous story about me.

I've had to laugh at some of the reports I've seen lately. I'm sure Graeme encourages speculation to keep us on our toes.

It's no secret that he's always on the look out for top class players and the fact that he often watches games in England means he's been linked with just about every player in the First Division.

His latest signing, Richard Gough, has settled in well and in his third game helped us qualify for Europe by beating Aberdeen in

a brilliant Skol Cup Final.

It was very hard for Chris Woods and myself to watch that game from the Hampden stands.

But we had a brilliant party back at Ibrox after the Final. The champagne was flowing, and it seems to me the celebrations are getting better and better.

I can't wait for the end of the season, because I know we'll have a lot more to cheer by then. And if that upsets some people ... that's tough!

Ian Durrant



I HAVE a score to settle with Manchester United ... and Old Trafford on Sunday would be an ideal place to do it.

In all the times I played there for Watford I was never on the winning side and can only remember drawing once, so I haven't collected too many fond memories of the place.

But I believe my new Liverpool team-mates can help me put that appalling record straight when we visit the famous stadium for Sunday's TV spectacular.

You only have to look at the fixture – Manchester United v Liverpool – to see what the game means and I feel it will be one of our biggest of the season, second only to the Merseyside derbies.

The fact the game will be broadcast live on television adds even more spice to what promises to be an exceptional occasion. As far as excitement and entertainment value is concerned, Old Trafford will be the place to be.

It will be our third live-screen appearance this season so we're quite accustomed to performing under the TV microscope, and United should be no strangers to the situation either, having played West Ham at Upton Park a little more than a fortnight ago.

It gave me my first real look at them this season and for the opening 45 minutes I was very impressed.

The way they knocked the ball around made it look like a training session, but the game became too easy for them and they relaxed enough to allow West Ham back into it. I don't suppose they'll be so generous on Sunday.

United have quality players right through the ranks, from Paul McGrath at the back to Bryan Robson in midfield and Jesper Olsen up front. But the man who

could stand between me and personal glory is Viv Anderson.

Life's never easy when you're up against Viv because you can often spend a lot of time in the left-back position covering HIS forward runs. On Sunday I aim to be running at Viv more than he runs at me.

I've always had a lot of respect for my international team-mate and, being the first black player to play for England, he was a source of inspiration to me, although at the time he made history I was still at school and not even considering a career in football.

In fact I was all set to return to Jamaica with my parents before Watford stepped in to offer me a chance. Thank heavens they did, because now I'm playing for the best team in the country and loving every minute of it.

Surprisingly I haven't felt under

I'll end my United

Shoot's new star writer predicts a change of fortune in Sunday's Big Box Game

pressure at Anfield because I've been fortunate to step into a tremendous side playing with supreme confidence. Everything clicked almost from the first whistle and we've continued in the same vein ever since.

It's still early days yet but I've been very pleased with my performances, particularly against Derby and QPR.

The match against Rangers was vital because they were top at the time, and it was great to be involved in a comprehensive 4-0 win. To score two goals in the process was a bonus.

The second goal gave me particular pleasure and several people have remarked that it reminded them of the goal I scored for England in Brazil three

years ago. A touch of the old Maracana magic, you might say.

But don't get the impression I'm getting carried away with all the praise and publicity I've been attracting because of performances like that.

It's all very flattering but, quite frankly, it's like water off a duck's back to me.

I take very little notice of it because it can lead to complacency – and when that happens you're in trouble.

Similarly with the team itself, we won't allow ourselves to be lulled into the belief that we're going to walk the Championship as some people seem to think – even if we have won ten of our opening 11 games.

Let's just say we're very happy with the way the season has started and we're looking to maintain our impressive run of form – after all it would be very difficult to better it.

The great thing is that we've managed to hit top form with new boys like myself supposedly still settling in. The latest signing, Ray Houghton, has also made a good

JOHN BARNES
Column



I never had any joy at Old Trafford with Watford. I hope to remedy that situation now I'm a Liverpool player.

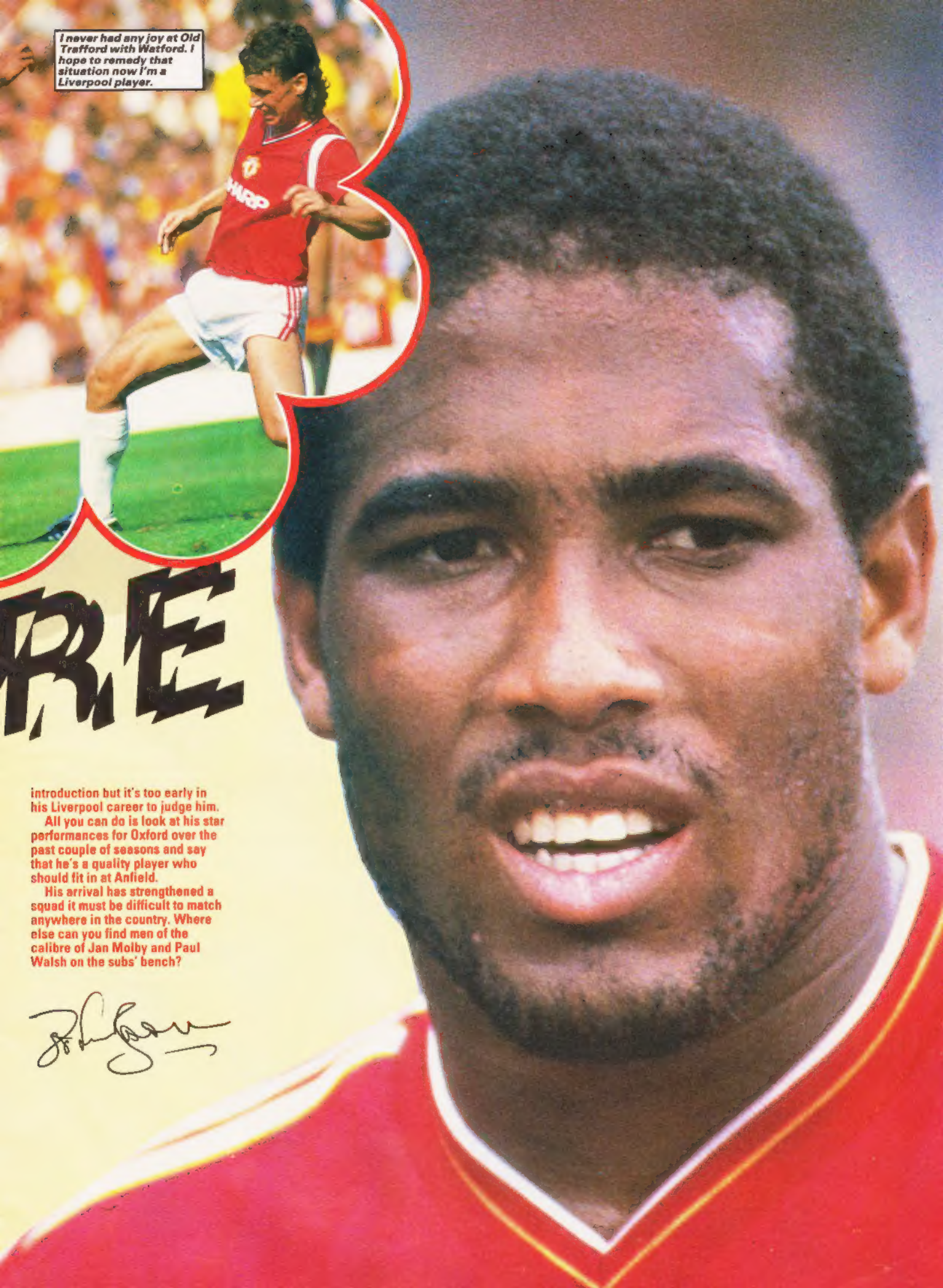


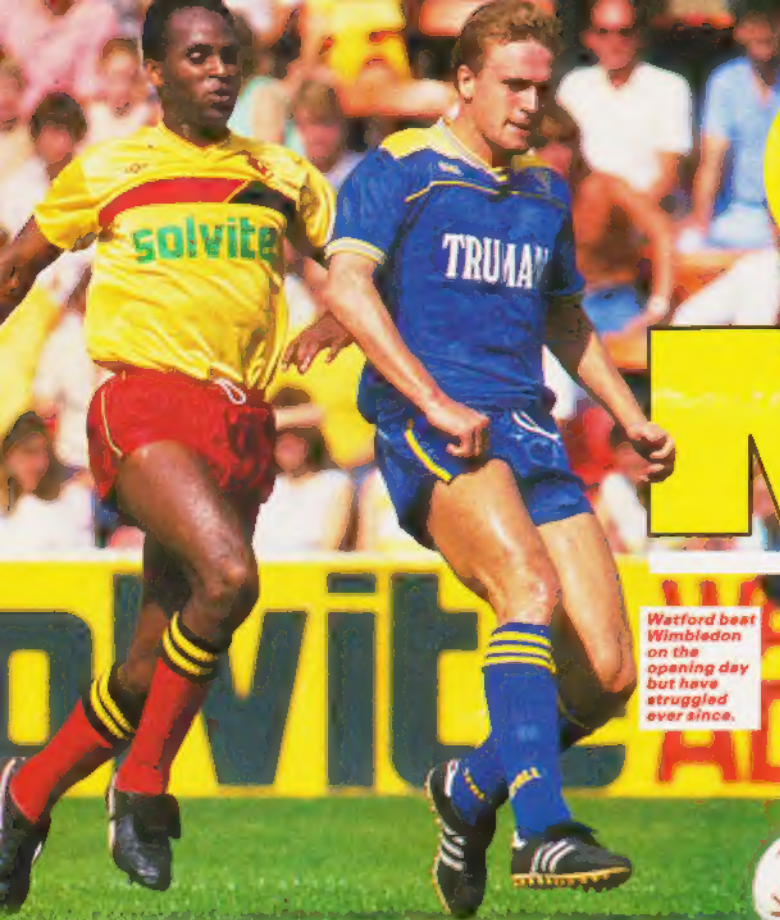
FREE

introduction but it's too early in his Liverpool career to judge him.

All you can do is look at his star performances for Oxford over the past couple of seasons and say that he's a quality player who should fit in at Anfield.

His arrival has strengthened a squad it must be difficult to match anywhere in the country. Where else can you find men of the calibre of Jan Molby and Paul Walsh on the subs' bench?





Watford beat Wimbledon on the opening day but have struggled ever since.

GET MY B

Watford's Dave Bassett hits out

UNDER fire boss Dave Bassett has hit back at the critics who seem hell bent on destroying the reputation of one of the game's best young managers.

His success in guiding Wimbledon to the top – rivalled in recent years only by that of his Watford predecessor Graham Taylor – shot him to fame, if not fortune.

But since his move up-market to Vicarage Road the tide has turned and the knives are out for the crafty cockney.

A string of disastrous results, dramatic changes to the team Taylor built and bitter disappointment in the transfer market have all combined to make him public enemy number one.

But Bassett remains unmoved. "People had built me up

because of the Wimbledon fairy story, but I knew when I took the Watford job the scribes would be after me if we didn't get off to a good start – and they haven't disappointed me," he says.

"But I have enough faith in my own ability not to let it worry me and I won't crack. I've had bad times before and bounced back – and I'll do the same this time."

"Obviously I'm not happy with the situation we're in, but don't call it a crisis. A crisis is when people are losing their lives – we're only losing football matches."

But don't get the impression that the effervescent boss has lost his fizz.

He's simply being realistic about a situation which has placed his reputation – and possibly his job – on the line.

"People flaunt volatile words in football as though it's a matter of life and death and while it's obviously important that Watford are successful, there's no point in getting hysterical at this stage of the season."

"I'm not Paul Daniels and can't wave a magic wand and make Watford go to the top of the table overnight. It's going to take time and I want the fans to be patient

Danger

Just two wins in the first 12 League games – one against his old club on the opening day – have left Watford flirting with danger at the foot of the First Division amid cries of a crisis.

Still 'Harry' Bassett refuses to panic. "Crisis, what crisis?" is the reaction from the wise-cracking chief. This time, however, he's not joking.

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OFF ACK

and judge me at the end of the season, not after a handful of games."

He openly admits he's struggling to lay the ghost of Graham Taylor and reveals: "The job has proved to be a lot more difficult than I ever imagined and I wasn't prepared for so many ups and downs."

"Not only has there been a new management team but players have come and gone with rapid succession. The last few months have been far more traumatic for Watford FC than people realise, people realise."

"I expected the changeover to be quite smooth and that was very naive of me, but I don't regret taking up the challenge of replacing a successful manager like Graham Taylor."

'Feelings'

"He was very popular here and even now some people haven't come to terms with the fact that he's gone. If he had made the changes I have made nothing would have been said, but because it's a new man doing it I've alienated a section of the fans."

"I've heard them say I've broken up Graham's team and I suppose by selling some of their favourites I've got up people's noses. But I can't let their feelings affect my decisions because I believe what I'm doing is right for Watford."

"Graham Taylor has gone and the sooner they realise it the better. I'm here now and they're stuck with me."

Bassett breezed into Watford with his own ideas about how the team should play but because of their poor start has been forced to rethink his strategy.

"I've had to change in mid-stream because I wasn't getting what I wanted out of the players and that obviously added to my problems," he explains. "Players weren't capable of doing what I required, so I had to compromise."

"We're now having to play a different way to the one I want, with the so-called 'long ball' taking second place to a more controlled build-up."

'I'm not Paul Daniels and can't wave a magic wand. Judge me at the end of the season – not now'

To add to Bassett's difficulties his moves into the transfer market to improve his squad have been thwarted with bids for Mick Harford and, more recently, John Wark failing.

"Just one of the many set-backs I've had to contend with," he sighs. "People are asking silly prices and it's not making my job any easier. But I'll keep plugging away until I get the players I want."

"This season is going to be a test of character for everyone connected with Watford, but we'll get it right.... given time."



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Littlewoods CUP

NOT even the pools' experts from Cup sponsors Littlewoods could have forecast some of the amazing upsets which have turned this year's competition into the Cup of shocks.

We're only just past the Third Round stage yet already more than half of the First Division's clubs have bitten the dust.

Tottenham, Nottingham Forest and Norwich all fell to Second Division clubs last month, but it was QPR who suffered the defeat of the round when they were humbled by little Bury.

Living up to their nickname of

The Shakers, the Third Division club, inspired by old campaigners Sammy McIlroy and Noel Brotherston, halted the Rangers' rollercoaster and earned themselves a money-spinning Fourth Round tie at home to Manchester United.

Bury are guaranteed a massive rake-off following a venue switch from Gigg Lane to Old Trafford, but despite the police-enforced move experienced midfielder Sammy McIlroy, a former United favourite, insists: "This was the draw we all wanted."



FOURTH ROUND

"You can't ask for much more than Manchester United and I'm sure the Bury fans are as delighted as I am. It will be a great occasion and my old team will certainly know they've been in a game - just ask QPR how we can play."

Two other former Manchester United men are also looking forward to the Fourth round tie with relish. They are back-from-the-brink defender Mark Higgins and Bury physio Wilf McGuinness, the ex-Old Trafford chief.

Another former First Division star up against his old club is Brian Talbot, whose inspiring

Sammy will shake 'em up

Former Stretford End hero McIlroy can't wait to go back to Old Trafford with Bury next week.



performance in Stoke's Third Round win over Norwich set up an emotional return to Highbury.

The two-time Wembley winner will be looking to add a League Cup winners' medal to the two he collected in the FA Cup with Ipswich and Fourth Round opponents Arsenal.

The odds, however, must be firmly stacked against Stoke, with The Gunners hopeful of retaining the Cup they won last March.

With so many big clubs having fallen by the wayside, George Graham's men must fancy their chances, although Everton boss Colin Harvey will also be keen to emulate his Arsenal counterpart's achievement of lifting the Littlewoods Cup in his first season in charge.

The men from Goodison were worthy Third Round winners at Liverpool and can now look forward to a home tie against Oldham.

FOURTH ROUND DRAW

Bury v Manchester United
Everton v Oldham
Man City v Watford
Ipswich v Luton
Arsenal v Stoke
Aston Villa v Sheff Wed
Oxford v Wimbledon
Reading v Bradford

I'm ready for another shiner!



BRYAN ROBSON *Column*



Old Trafford will be no place for the faint hearted this Sunday as Manchester United go all out to inflict Liverpool's first League defeat of the season.

The tackling will be fierce and the commitment total. I just hope the ref treats us as men and lets the game flow, because no matter how hard the challenges go in, I'm sure there won't be anything nasty.

Everyone at Old Trafford is really psyched up for the game we now regard as our derby match following Manchester City's relegation to the Second Division.

And whether I'm piling into a midfield confrontation with Steve McMahon or shackling the goal threat of Peter Beardsley, I'm determined to come out on top.

Bruises

I've taken my fair share of whacks in recent weeks, but I'll put up with a few more bumps and bruises if we can win on Sunday.

United have taken a lot of stick in recent weeks and some of it has been deserved.

We've dropped too many silly points, and with Liverpool in such superb form that's something we can't afford if we are to remain serious about winning the Championship.

I was as disappointed as anyone when Kenny Dalglish's men beat Everton in their recent Merseyside collision at Anfield.

Like the rest of the First Division I was banking on the Blues to repeat their Littlewoods

Cup victory of a few days earlier and bring Liverpool back down to earth.

They have made such an impressive start to the season that people are now talking in terms of them not losing a single League game all season.

But that is ridiculous. I don't believe such a feat is possible in modern day football.

And I saw enough in those two games against Everton last month to convince me that Liverpool can be stopped.

The one thing I can guarantee is that Sunday's game will be played at breathtaking speed. It will look quick on the telly, but out on the pitch it will be even faster.

A lot of idiots tell me that we should slow these big match confrontations down. But they should try it!

Anyone who attempts to put his foot on the ball on Sunday will be swallowed alive. Try to stroll and the whole game will just pass you by.

John Barnes, Peter Beardsley and John Aldridge have enjoyed all the headlines so far, but it will

Anyone who tries to put his foot on the ball on Sunday will be swallowed alive.

be battlers like McMahon, Craig Johnston and Ronnie Whelan who will be Liverpool's key players this Sunday.

And I have to say that Alan Hansen was just fantastic in that League win over Everton. He held his back four together magnificently in the face of severe pressure.

Switched

Three days later it will be a totally different proposition when we take on Third Division Bury in the Fourth Round of the Littlewoods Cup.

We should have been playing them at Gigg Lane, but the police decided their ground can't cope with a big crowd and have ordered the tie to be switched to Old Trafford.

But although we have home advantage, Bury are no mugs and we must respect them for what they can do.

They know they cannot afford to stand off and let us play, so they'll come at us right from the kick-off and it will be very difficult until we get the first goal.

I know that with so many of the big boys already out of the Littlewoods Cup, people are now talking of United going all the way to Wembley.

But although I expect us to beat Bury, I also expect Everton and Arsenal to make it to the Quarter-Finals, and an away draw against either of them would be a real test.

As I said a few weeks ago, United's fans are now so obsessed with us winning the League that it's almost as if they're not that interested in the Cup competitions.

But that's not how we feel in the dressing-room. We want the Championship above all else, but if we get the chance to go to Wembley as well, we're certainly not going to turn it down.

Bryan Robson.



BARCLAYS LEAGUE



Tuesday, November 3

LITTLEWOODS CUP Third Round replay

WATFORD (1)	4	SWINDON (1)	2
Morris, Porter, Hodges, Allen		Quinn, Foley	13,378

Division One

ARSENAL (2)	3	CHELSEA (1)	1
Richardson 2, Wegman (og)		Nevill	40,230

Division Two

BIRMINGHAM (1)	2	BARNLEY (0)	0
Whitton 2			6,622
C PALACE (1)	5	PLYMOUTH (0)	1
Wright 3, Gray, Nettebren		Brimacombe	7,424
HULL (0)	0	BRADFORD (0)	0
			15,443
IPSWICH (2)	3	HUDDESFIELD (0)	0
Woods, Lowe, Brennan			9,984
MILLWALL (0)	1	BOURNEMOUTH (0)	2
Cascano		O'Driscoll, Shawyer	5,374
SHREWSBURY (1)	1	A.VILLA (1)	2
Leworthy		Kearns, Aspinall	7,089

Division Three

BLACKPOOL (1)	4	BRISTOL C (1)	2
Morgan, Taylor, Madden 2 (pen)		Shurt 2	3,140
BURY (1)	1	MANSFIELD (0)	0
Haydon			2,248
CHESTERFIELD (0)	0	WIGAN (1)	1
		Cook	1,725
FULHAM (3)	5	GRIMSBY (0)	0
Davies, Skinner 2 (pens), Rossner			3,493
GILLINGHAM (0)	0	BRENTFORD (1)	1
		Thorne	4,529

ROTHERHAM (1)	1	NOTTS COUNTY (1)	1
Green		Green (og)	4,157
SUNDERLAND (3)	7	SOUTHEND (0)	0
Gates 4, Atkinson 2, Gabbadon			15,754
WALSALL (1)	2	ALDERSHOT (0)	0
Kelly 2			4,188

Division Four

CAMBRIDGE (0)	0	HEREFORD (1)	1
		Philips	2,251
CARLISLE (1)	1	ORIENT (1)	2
Hetherington		Shiners 2	2,139
DARLINGTON (0)	1	CREWE (0)	0
Worthington			1,720
HALIFAX (1)	2	BURNLEY (1)	1
Martin, Matthews		Taylor	3,419
NEWPORT (0)	0	BOLTON (1)	1
		Elliott	1,586
ROCHDALE (1)	1	COLCHESTER (2)	4
Simmonds		Wilkins 2, Chatterton	1,399
SCUNTHORPE (1)	3	WREXHAM (1)	1
Flaunders 2, Reeves		Buxton	2,348
STOCKPORT (0)	1	HARTLEPOOL (0)	0
Brash			1,408
SWANSEA (0)	1	WOLVES (1)	2
Allen		Bull, Gallacher	5,293
TORQUAY (1)	1	TRANMERE (0)	0
Dobson			2,152

SCOTTISH FIRST

PARTICK (1)	1	KILMARNOCK (0)	0
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Wednesday, November 4

EUROPEAN CUP

Second Round, second-leg

GORNIK ZAB (0)	1	RANGERS (1)	1
Orszak		McCaig (pen)	20,000

(agg. 2-4)

CUP WINNERS' CUP

Second Round, second-leg

ST MIRREN (0)	0	MECHELEN (1)	2
		Chen 2	14,000

(agg. 2-0)

UEFA CUP

Second Round, second-leg

FEYENOORD (0)	1	ABERDEEN (0)	0
Holckstra			

(agg. 2-2 Feyenoord won on away goals)

VITKOVICE (0)	1	DUNDEE UTD (1)	1
Vik		Dostal (og)	30,000

(agg. 3-2)

LITTLEWOODS CUP Third Round Replays

LEICESTER (2)	2	OXFORD (1)	3
Newell 2		Saunders, Shelton	10,478
OLDHAM (0)	4	LEEDS (0)	2
Keeley, Williams, Irwin, Wright		Snodin, Taylor	7,058

(90 mins 2-2)

READING (1)	1	PETERBORO (0)	0
Peters			6,030

Division One

PORTSMOUTH (0)	0	TOTTENHAM (0)	0
			15,302
WIMBLEDON (0)	1	LIVERPOOL (0)	1
Fairweather		Houghton	13,544

Division Two

MAN CITY (0)	1	MIDDLESBRO (1)	1
Hinchcliffe		Glover	18,434
WEST BROM (2)	4	SHEFF UTD (0)	0
Gray, Goodman, Williamson, Kuhl (og)			8,072

Division Three

BRIGHTON (1)	2	DONCASTER (0)	0
Neison 2			7,142
BRISTOL R (0)	1	PRESTON (1)	2
Habibt		Ellis, Jenson	2,904
CHESTER (0)	1	PORT VALE (0)	0
Rimmer, (pen)			2,789
NORTHAMPTON (0)	0	YORK (0)	0
			4,950

Division Four

SCARBOROUGH (1)	1	CARDIFF (1)	1
Mell		Wimbeldon	2,599

Friday, November 6 BARCLAYS LEAGUE Division Four

HALIFAX (1)	1	COLCHESTER (1)	2
Galloway		Wilkins, Chatterton (pen)	1,432
STOCKPORT (1)	2	TORQUAY (0)	1
Enriwille, Robinson		Loran	1,697
TRANMERE (0)	1	WREXHAM (0)	0
			3,271

Saturday, November 7

DIVISION ONE

CHARLTON (2)	2	NORWICH (0)	0
Bennett 15, Jones 22			5,044
LUTON (1)	4	NEWCASTLE (0)	0
M. Stern 3, 62			7,638
NEWCASTLE 75, B. Stern 87			
OXFORD (0)	1	COVENTRY (0)	0
Saunders 81 (pen)			7,858
Q.P.R. (0)	0	WATFORD (0)	0
			12,101

WEST HAM (0)	0	SHEFF WED (1)	1
		Bradshaw 21	18,277
WIMBLEDON (1)	2	SOUTHAMPTON (0)	0
Fairweather 27, Cork 88			5,014

DIVISION TWO

ASTON VILLA (1)	1	MILLWALL (2)	2
Kearns 26		Cascano 6, Briley 19	13,255

BARNLEY (2)	3	BRADFORD (0)	0
Gray 15, Lowndes 37, Wyde 77			11,569

BLACKBURN (1)	1	OLDHAM (0)	0
Rod 24			7,519

BOURNEMOUTH (2)	2	C PALACE (3)	3
O'Driscoll 1, Williams 12		Thomas 27, Bright 35, 44	9,083

HULL (1)	2	BIRMINGHAM (0)	0
Williams 42, Ovenson 86 (og)			7,901

IPSWICH (0)	2	READING (1)	1
Love 56, 79		Gordon	11,508

LEEDS (1)	2	SHREWSBURY (0)	1
Strick 4, Taylor 80		Narben 55	13,780

LEICESTER (0)	3	SWINDON (1)	2
Ramsey 82, Walsh 89, Varus 89		Barnes B, Quinn 65, 8, 346	

MAN CITY (4)	10	HUDDESFIELD (0)	1
McNab 13, Stewart 30, 67, 81		May 89 (pen)	19,593

ADCOCK 34, 53, 68			
White 41, 85, 90			

SHEFF UTD (0)	0	MIDDLESBRO (0)	0
		Slaven 47	11,278

STOKE (2)	3	WEST BROM (0)	0
Berry 16 (pen), Meath 44, Parton 77			9,952

DIVISION THREE

ALDERSHOT (1)	2	BRISTOL CITY (0)	1
Jangley 30, Barry 90		Callers 68	4,324

BLACKPOOL (1)	3	ROTHERHAM (0)	0
Deary 39, Taylor 70			3,447

BRISTOL ROY (2)	2	CHESTERFIELD (0)	0
Parrell 31 (pen), Meacham 31			2,633

CHESTER (0)	1	WALSALL (0)	1
Lightfoot 85		Jones 48 (pen)	3,289

DOUGCASTER (1)	1	PORT VALE (0)	1
Dean 33		Sproson 30	1,365

FULHAM (0)	0	NORTHAMPTON (0)	0
			6,717

GILLINGHAM (0)	1	BRIGHTON (0)	1
Greenall 65 (pen)		Dubin 69	6,437

MANSFIELD (0)	0	PRESTON (0)	0
			3,631

NOTTS CD (0)	3	BRENTFORD (0)	0
White 46, McFarland 83, 90			5,634

SUNDERLAND (0)	1	GRIMSBY (1)	1
North 1			18,197

WIGAN (0)	1	SOUTHEND (0)	0
Cook 47			3,081

YORK (0)	1	BURY (1)	1
Hellinwell 48		Robinson 27	2,841

DIVISION FOUR

BOLTON (0)	1	LEYTON ORIENT (0)	0
Thomas 69			5,189

CARDIFF (1)	1	EXETER (1)	2
Gilligan 4, 83, Boyle 77		Rowbotham 15, Batty 82	3,474

CARLISLE (2)	3	NEWPORT (0)	1
Cooke 11, Hetherington 17		Prece 84	1,766

HEREFORD (0)	1	CREWE (0)	1
Saunders 48		Murphy 83	2,272

PETERBORO (0)	0	HARTLEPOOL (0)	0
Rodgerman 89		Toman 57	3,200

ROCHDALE (0)	2	SWANSEA (0)	3
Simmonds 88, Gavin 89		Pascoe 66, 86, McCarthy 73	1,243

SCUNTHORPE (0)	0	SCARBOROUGH (0)	1
		McIntyre 57	4,605

WOLVES (0)	3	BURNLEY (0)	0
Downing 73, Gallagher 79			10,002

VAUGHAN 87			
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FINE FARE LEAGUE



Saturday, November 7

SCOTTISH PREMIER

DUNDEE (1)	3	FALKIRK (0)	1
Coyne 35, 62 (pen), Wright 64		Burgess 81 (pen)	4,324

DUMFRIES (2)	2	ST MIRREN (0)	0
McCarthy 11, Watson 20			6,508

HEARTS (1)	1	CELTIC (0)	0
Colquhoun 40		McGhee 78	29,000

MORTON (0)	0	ABERDEEN (0)	0
			4,500

MOTHERWELL (0)	2	DUNDEE UTD (0)	1
Cowan 47, Boyd 52		Ferguson 85	2,927

RANGERS (1)	1	HIBERNIAN (0)	0
Fleck 21			37,517

SCOTTISH DIV. ONE

CLYDEBANK (2)	3	DUMBARTON (1)	2
HAMILTON (0)	2	AIRDRIE (0)	1

MEADOWBANK (2)	3	FORFAR (0)	0
PARTICK (1)	1	CLYDE (2)	4

QUEEN OF STH (0)	1	KILMARNOCK (0)	4
RAITH ROY (1)	2	EAST FIFE (0)	1

SCOTTISH DIV. TWO

ALLOA (0)	0	QUEENS PK (2)	3
ARBROATH (2)	3	STRANRAER (0)	2

BERWICK (0)	0	BRECHIN (2)	2
EAST STIRLING (0)	2	ALBION R (0)	2

MONROSE (1)	2	AYR UTD (0)	4
ST JOHNSTONE (0)	0	COWDENBEATH (0)	1

STIRLING ALB (0)	0	STENSHMUIR (2)	3
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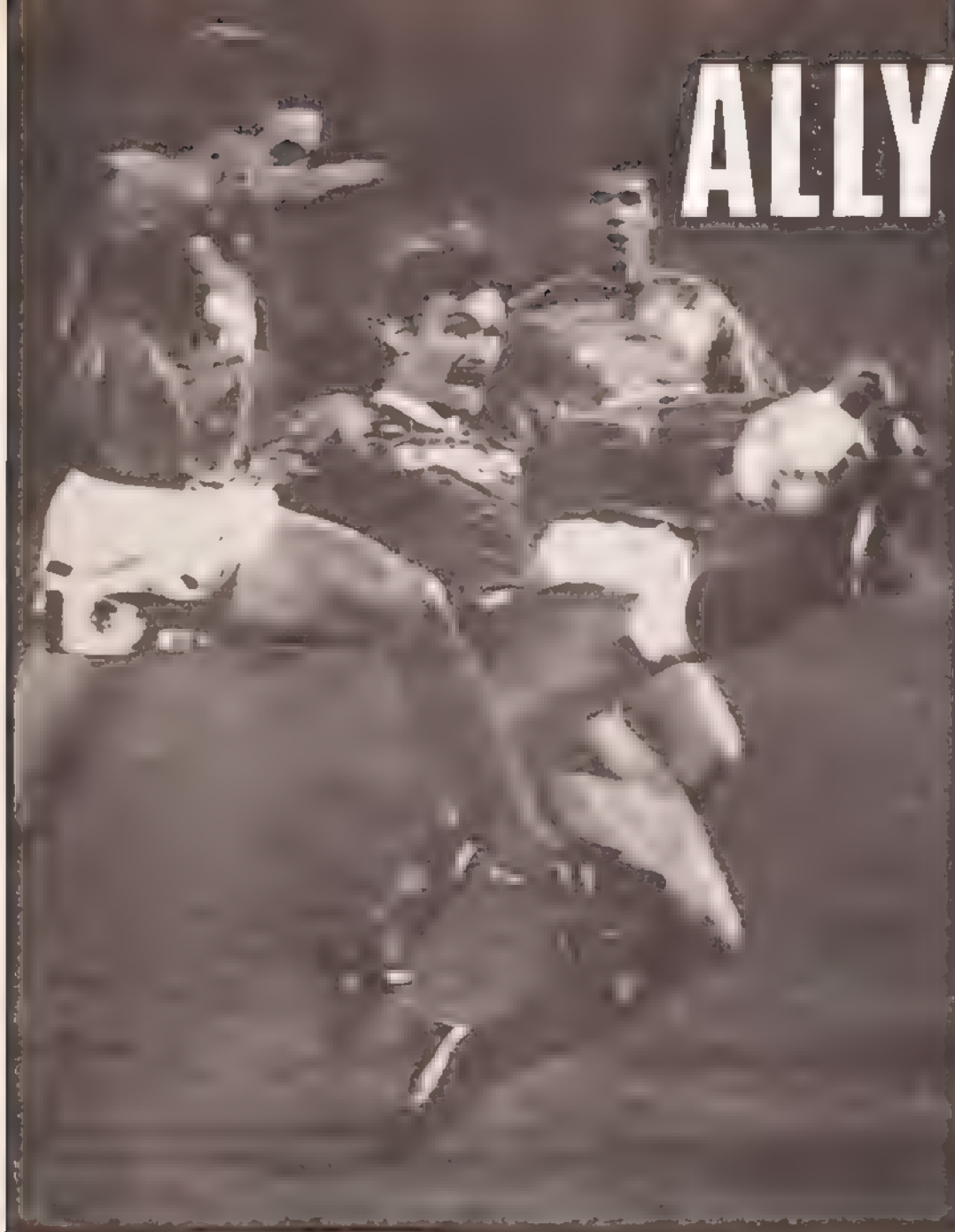
Sunday, November 8

Division Four

DARLINGTON (0)	0	CAMB UTD (0)	1
		Butler	2,463

DIVISION ONE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Liverpool	12	6	0	0	19	2	4	2	0	13	5	32
Arsenal	14	6	0	1	18	4	4	2	1	8	4	32
Q R P	14	5	2	0	11	3	4	1	2	8	3	30
Nottm F	13	3	2	1	10	4	5	1	1	14	7	27
Man Utd	14	4	3	0	12	8	2	4	1	12	9	25
Chelsea	15	6	1	0	15	7	2	0	6	10	17	25
Everton	15	5	0	0	12	7	1	3	3	7	7	22
Tottenham	15	5	0	2	12	10	1	4	1	11	20	21
Oxford	14	2	4	2	11	7	3	0	4	7	9	18
Wimbledon	14	2	2	2	11	7	3	0	4	7	9	18
Sheff Wed	14	2	2	2	7	8	2	3	3	12	14	17
Sheff Sat	14	2	2	2	3	5	2	2	2	7	9	16
Derby	13	2	2	3	5	5	2	2	4	7	8	16
Coventry	14	2	1	4	7	14	3	0	2	7	6	16
Luton	14	3	3	3	12	7	1	0	5	6	12	15
West Ham	14	1	4	3	6	9	2	2	2	8	8	15
Sheff Wed	15	2	1	4	8	12	2	2	4	7	15	15
Portsmouth	14	3	3	2	11	11	0	2	4	3	18	14
Newcastle	13	1	1	4	5	10	3	2	2	10	13	13
Norwich	15	2	2	3	8	9	1	0	7	2	12	11
Watford	13	1	2	3	3	7	1	1	5	3	9	9
Charlton	13	2	1	5	8	11	0	2	6	8	13	11



ALLY

FLIES THE FLAG

Britain's sole European hopes rest firmly with Rangers following a disappointing night for Scottish soccer

St Mirren, Aberdeen and Dundee United were all knocked out by foreign opposition, but Ally McCoist ensured Rangers' path to the European Cup Quarter-Finals with a vital strike from the penalty spot to earn his side a 1-1 draw away to Poles Gornik Zabrze, for a 4-2 aggregate win.

United snubbed

BARCELONA misfit Mark Hughes has revealed the real reason why he couldn't return to his old club Manchester United this season

After putting pen to paper on a lucrative loan deal with West German Champions Bayern Munich, the Welsh international confessed: "I couldn't have lived with being branded a failure.

"If I'd gone back to United now the stick would have been unbearable. Can you imagine going to Anfield and having 20,000 fans screaming 'Barcelona reject' at you?

"Hopefully if I can be a success over the next six months or so in Germany I won't have to put up with that."

Manchester United boss Alex Ferguson seemed favourite to rescue Hughes from his Barcelona nightmare, but the player chose to join Bayern on loan until the end of the season.

At one time he confesses he would have "crawled back to Old Trafford" but now he admits: "My move on loan to Bayern is the best thing that could have happened to me right now.

"If I can do well I will come back to England next year a winner.

"The most important thing was for me to get away from Barcelona and start playing first team football again"

RAY CREATES A RECORD



Ray Houghton earned an instant rapport with the Liverpool fans when scoring his first goal for the club since his £800,000 move from Oxford, at Wimbledon.

Within a minute of coming on as a sub, his second game for Liverpool, Ray grabbed the goal which set-up a club record start to a season of 10 wins and two draws from 12 League games.



Shoot View

Don't nick 'em!

THE Strathclyde police over-reacted when they accused Terry Butcher, Chris Woods, Graham Roberts and Frank McAvennie of conduct likely to provoke a breach of the peace.

Charges were brought after incidents in the Old Firm clash between Celtic and Rangers on October 17th when Woods, Butcher and McAvennie were sent-off.

The police have set a controversial precedent. *Where do they stop now?*

If a player scores a goal, forgets himself in the excitement and gives a Harvey Smith salute to the rival fans, do the police have the power to arrest him during or after the game?

And what happens if a policeman on duty at a ground spots a player committing an offence on the blind side of the referee? Can he march on to the pitch and apprehend the culprit?

We doubt police would have taken action if any of the Rangers players had been involved in a similar incident against Morton or Motherwell.

It's a ludicrous situation. The maximum sentence for this offence is three months jail or a £2,000 fine.

It's unlikely to come to such a position, but imagine the outcry if the four men do end up behind bars.

The Scottish FA have been dealing with players found guilty of offences within the game for decades.

Allow the clubs and the football authorities to get on with their job of punishing players who bring the game into disrepute.

Of course, if this action hammers home the warning that no player is above the law even on the pitch, a valuable lesson will have been learned.

But hopefully there will be no need for further police hysteria.

FANTASTIC non-stop action. Blistering pace. Fearless tackling. Super skills. Great goals. Packed terraces. Well-behaved fans

We're not talking about the game in Italy, Spain, South America, West Germany or any other country in the world, but the recent Liverpool v Everton derby.

In terms of sheer entertainment you can't beat British football.

The Editor

Peter Stewart, Shoot! Commonwealth House, 1-19 New Oxford St., London WC1A 1NG.

Follow the Falcons!

SHOOT VIEW, 24th October issue, which condemned certain aspects of junior soccer, certainly sparked a tremendous response from readers.

Many agreed that some teams are more intent on kicking each other than playing football.

Richard Miller from Plymouth has quit as manager of his Under-14 side because several of his players have received nasty injuries this season.

Eddie Homes from Bradford is so sickened by the actions of some parents during Under-10 matches that he has banned his young son from playing.

School master Arnold Jones, from Kirkby on Merseyside, was appalled when the boys in his team asked how best to appeal to referees.

Of course, there were also many managers who objected to the editorial.

For example, Mr M. J. Barnes, who runs a club called Stafford Falcons in the Rugeley and District Boys Football League, writes: "None of the managers in my League would suggest anything like you have printed."

Competitive

"We are not professionals, but a group of keen volunteers who have a good understanding of boy's football."

"We do not encourage competitive soccer for seven to eight year olds, but the thrill and enjoyment we get out of running teams from 9-12 is something you can only appreciate if you have ever run a team."

Our view was not directed at coaches and managers like Mr. Barnes, but at those people who are in charge of youngsters and know very little about the game or running teams.

I have in fact been involved with junior football for eight years and have often been disgusted with the attitudes of managers who are more interested in winning pots than teaching youngsters the basics.

That's why I believe the FA should take a close look at the way some Leagues are operating and ban those clubs who are not projecting the right image of the game.

Nice one, Tony

After scoring his first hat-trick for West Brom, Tony Morley presented the match ball to a special school for handicapped children at Sutton Coldfield.

"I have no use for the ball but I am sure the school will be able to put it to good use," says Tony.

Family Fun Days Hotline!

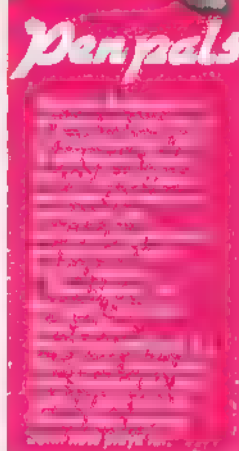
IT'S not too late to join the fun and meet the stars on a SHOOT Family Fun Day.

Matches involved are Everton v West Ham on 14th Nov, Spurs v Liverpool on 28th Nov, Man United v Oxford on 12th Dec, Arsenal v Everton on 19th Dec, Liverpool v Arsenal 16th Jan, 1988.

Price Adults £29.50. Children under 16 £24.50. Cheques payable to 'Family Fun Days'. Send to PO Box 123, Eastbourne, Sussex. Or telephone Fun Days Hotline 0323 36612.

PANINI SWOP SHOP

Alison Thomson, 135 Wadham Gardens, Greenford, Middlesex UB6 0BT has Football '87 stickers to swap. Adrienne Hopkins, 35 Otlands Road, Oxford OX2 0EU has Football '86 stickers to exchange.



Ask the Expert

Paul Rider from Colchester in Essex, asks: "I know Nottingham Forest's Neil Webb became England's 1,000th full cap when he came on as substitute against West Germany recently."

"But can you tell me how many players only made one appearance?"
● The total to date, Paul, is a massive 303
● If you want that soccer query answered write to Ask The Expert, c/o SHOOT

ED'S TEASER

Terry Venables is the new manager of Tottenham. Can you name the two other London clubs he was manager of before he took over at Barcelona?

£b to the first five correct entries opened after Friday 20th November

Answer to Ed's Teaser 31st October issue was Southampton. Fivers on the way to: Daniel Howard, Merseyside, Terry Asser, Enfield; John Maloney, Peckham, Ross Slorach, Edinburgh, Paul McLaughlin, Pembrokeshire

FERGIE'S FEAR

After scoring his first hat-trick for West Brom, Tony Morley presented the match ball to a special school for handicapped children at Sutton Coldfield.

"I have no use for the ball but I am sure the school will be able to put it to good use," says Tony.

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FOOTBALL SEASON SPECIALS



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CHELSEA	Home*	£15.99	£19.99
	Away	£15.99	£19.99
EVERTON	Home	£15.99	£19.99
RANGERS	Home*	£15.99	£19.99
SCOTLAND	Home	£15.99	£19.99
DERBY	Away/Home*	£15.99	£19.99

ADIDAS		26/8, 30/2	32/4, 36/8, 38/40, 42
ARSENAL	Home	£15.99	£19.99
MAN UTD	Home	£15.99	£19.99
LIVERPOOL	Home*	£15.99	£19.99
	Away*	£15.99	£19.99

HUMMEL		26/8, 30/2	34/36, 38/40, 42/44
SPURS	Home*	£17.50	£19.99
	Away	£17.50	£19.99
COVENTRY	Home*	£17.50	£19.99

TEAM SHORTS		26, 28	30, 32, 34, 36
UMBRO			
ENGLAND	Home	£7.99	£9.99
CELTIC	Home	£7.99	£9.99
CHELSEA	Home	£7.99	£9.99
	Away	£7.99	£9.99
EVERTON	Home	£7.99	£9.99
RANGERS	Home	£7.99	£9.99
SCOTLAND	Home	£7.99	£9.99
DERBY	Away/Home	£7.99	£9.99

ADIDAS		26, 28	30, 32, 34, 36
ARSENAL	Home	£7.99	£9.99
MAN UTD	Home	£7.99	£9.99
LIVERPOOL	Home	£7.99	£9.99
	Away	£7.99	£9.99

HUMMEL		26, 28	30, 32, 34, 36
SPURS	Home	£8.99	£10.99
	Away	£8.99	£10.99
COVENTRY	Home	£8.99	£10.99

TEAM SOCKS		Boys 11-1	Yths 2-5	Mens 6-12
UMBRO				
ENGLAND	Home	£3.50	£3.50	£3.99
CELTIC	Home	£3.50	£3.50	£3.99
CHELSEA	Home	£3.50	£3.50	£3.99
	Away	£3.50	£3.50	£3.99
EVERTON	Home	£3.50	£3.50	£3.99
RANGERS	Home	£3.50	£3.50	£3.99
SCOTLAND	Home	£3.50	£3.50	£3.99
DERBY	Away/Home	£3.50	£3.50	£3.99

ADIDAS		Junior 2-5	Senior 6-12	
ARSENAL	Home	£3.99	£4.50	
MAN UTD	Home	£3.99	£4.50	
LIVERPOOL	Home	£3.99	£4.50	
	Away	£3.99	£4.50	
HUMMEL		Boys 11-1	Yths 2-5	Mens 6-12
SPURS	Home	£3.99	£3.99	£4.50
	Away	£3.99	£3.99	£4.50
COVENTRY	Home	£3.99	£3.99	£4.50

TRACKSUITS		26-8	30-2	34	5	M	L
UMBRO							
ENGLAND		£24.99	£26.99	£34.99	£37.99	£37.99	£37.99
CELTIC		£26.99	£27.99	£35.99	£39.99	£39.99	£39.99
CHELSEA		£26.99	£27.99	£35.99	£39.99	£39.99	£39.99
EVERTON		£26.99	£27.99	£35.99	£39.99	£39.99	£39.99
RANGERS		£26.99	£27.99	£35.99	£39.99	£39.99	£39.99
TROUSERS		4-11	5-11	5-4	5-6	5-9	5-11
ADIDAS		B	LB	XS	S	M	L
MAN UTD		£19.99	£25.99	£25.99	£25.99	£25.99	£25.99
LIVERPOOL		£19.99	£25.99	£25.99	£25.99	£25.99	£25.99
ARSENAL		£19.99	£25.99	£25.99	£25.99	£25.99	£25.99

CAPS		£2.50	£3.99	£4.50	£7.99
ENGLAND, LIVERPOOL, RANGERS, MAN UTD, SPURS, CHELSEA, EVERTON, CELTIC, LEICESTER					
NIKE or ADIDAS CAPS					£4.99*

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Shoot!



Goal-hungry Dean Saunders is thwarted... by a Hammers sandwich! Oxford's former Brighton striker looked all set to gobble up his chance before defenders Alvin Martin (left) and Ray Stewart ate up the ground to block the shot. Liam Brady, West Ham's former pasta-king, and Oxford's Richard Hill look on, hoping for a slice of the action.

FACTastic

You'll need an extensive soccer knowledge and a little bit of guesswork this week. Tackle this quiz on 20 footballing facts. Some old, some new, some fascinating but all true.

1 Which former goalkeeper became the first British player to play 1,000 first class games?

2 Jason Dozzell is the youngest player, at 16 years and 57 days, to score in a First Division match. He was on target for who against Coventry when he created the record in 1984?

3 A volatile clash between Chile and Uruguay in 1975 was abandoned after a spectacular number of sending-offs. How many players were dismissed – 17, 18 or 19?

4 Dixie Dean holds the record number of League goals in a season at 60. Who was he playing for at the time?

5 Goalkeeper Tony Coton marked his League debut by saving a penalty after 80 seconds against Sunderland in 1980. Who was he in goal for?

6 Norman Whiteside became the youngest player to score in an FA Cup Final when he headed Manchester United's second goal against Brighton in their 4-0 victory. In which year was the game played?

7 A club with an average attendance of around 1,000 has the biggest ground in Britain. Name the team and the stadium?

Answers
on page
34

8 Diego Maradona joined Naples in 1984 for a staggering £6.9 million transfer fee. Which club did he leave to join the Italian club?

9 Spurs' Clive Allen joined Arsenal from QPR in a £1 million deal, then two months later joined which other London club for a similar fee without playing a League game for The Gunners.

10 In a Scottish Cup tie in 1885, Dundee Harps beat Aberdeen Rovers 35-0. On the same day Arbroath beat Bon Accord by a wider margin in a British record victory. What was the score?

11 Frank Stapleton became the first player to score in FA Cup Finals for different clubs when he netted for Manchester United in 1983 (below) following his goal for who in 1979?

DIEGO
MARADONA

FATTY
FOULKE

12 William 'Fatty' Foulke is the biggest player in football history. Did he weigh 18, 20 or 26 stone when he made his last appearance for Bradford?

13 Torquay's Pat Kruse scored the fastest own goal on record when he headed past his 'keeper against Cambridge in 1977. Did he score after 6, 16 or 26 seconds?

14 Brian Talbot became the first player to win successive FA Cup winners' medals with different clubs. Name the two teams.

15 Brownlie scored for Third Lanark and Hampton for Motherwell in a Scottish First Division clash in 1910. Why was this so unusual? a) They were both goalkeepers. b) Both had a wooden leg. c) Both were over 50-years-old.

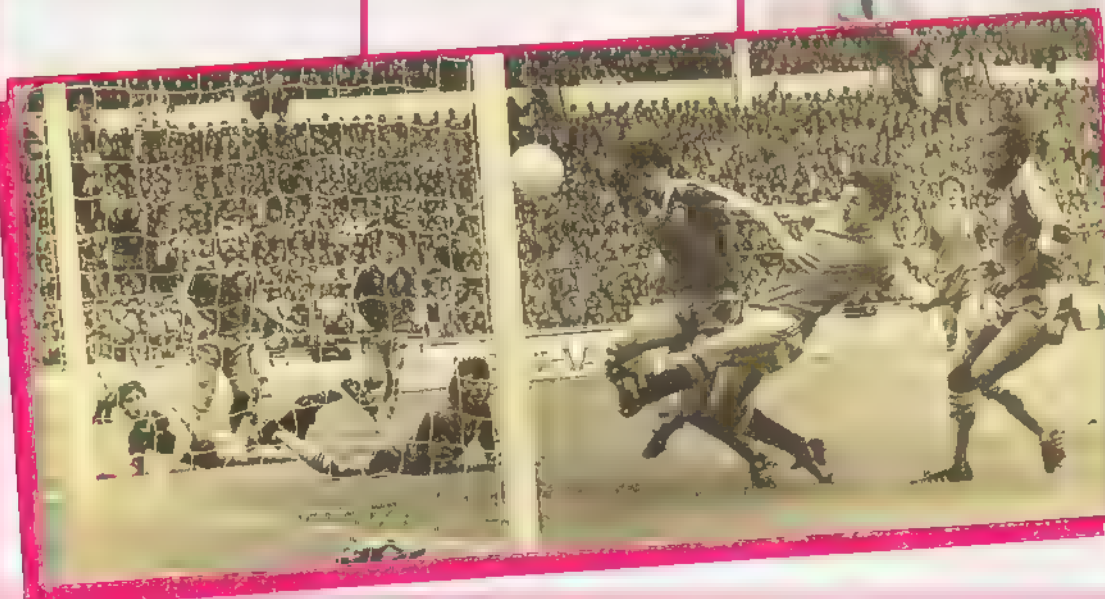
16 Bryan Robson fired the fastest goal in World Cup Finals history when he scored for England against who after 27 seconds in 1982?

17 The world record for juggling a football is held by Sweden's Mikael Palmquist, who balanced a ball for 24 hours and 14 mins in 1986. True or false?

18 Nottingham Forest were unbeaten in 42 consecutive matches between 20 November, 1977 and 9th December, 1978. Who was their manager during the spell?

19 Rangers goalkeeper Chris Woods was the first man to play in a Cup Final before making his League debut when he represented Nottingham Forest against Liverpool in which match in 1978?

20 Did Real Madrid or Atletico Madrid create a world record by going 122 League matches without defeat at home?



ROGAN'S BIGGEST BATTLE

If you thought they broke the mould when they made rugged Irish star Kevin Moran, then Celtic full-back Anton Rogan will make you think again.

Bravery and injury have gone hand in hand with the Manchester United defender but the Parkhead youngster has already shown he has the guts to push himself to the top.

He overcame two broken legs before he had reached his 19th birthday and now the Belfast boy throws himself into tackles bigger men would wince at.

Maybe the answer lies in the fact that, like Moran, 21-year-old Rogan has already had the toughest apprenticeship sport can provide - Gaelic football.

"It's a great game, and it toughens you up," he says. "We never played soccer at school. It was always Gaelic football."

A familiar characteristic of the left-back's style is the way he can send a perfect hanging punt kick from defence and chase after it as if he were at Croke Park.

But it's Celtic Park where Rogan's heart is and after a long fight to get there he's determined to stay.

"I've been connected with Celtic since I was 18 but twice when they looked like signing me I broke my leg.

"The first time, when I was 18, I broke it playing for my Irish club, Distillery. The next season I broke it again during a trial game in

Holland with Celtic's youth team."

However, Celtic liked what they had seen and waited patiently to snap up Rogan from Distillery for £20,000 in April, 1986.

"I was really surprised I broke through so quickly. Left-back seems to have been a problem spot for Celtic.

"I thought I was just going to fill in, but the Boss must have been impressed. Players such as Tommy Burns and Danny McGrain were really great in helping me."

Rogan has made his Parkhead breakthrough just as his friend from Belfast, keeper Allen McKnight, has forced his way into the limelight.

Sensitive

"We played together at Distillery and came over to Glasgow around the same time. Now we share the same house."

Rogan doesn't bat an eyelid at the fact he's gone against established codes back home in religiously sensitive Belfast by being a Catholic whose best mate, McKnight, is a Protestant, and sharing digs with him.

"We go to each other's houses in Belfast and neither has ever had any trouble.

"Celtic are beginning to get support from all over the community there."

Maybe the Parkhead pair are pointing the way to the new Northern Ireland on and off the football park.



NOBBY

I THINK THE 'TWO SUBS' IDEA IS WORKING VERY WELL



AND I'M ALL FOR CHANGES THAT IMPROVE THE GAME



SO AM I... LIKE ELEVEN SUBS FOR INSTANCE!



THERE'S ALWAYS GOT TO BE SOMEONE WHO'S NEVER SATISFIED!



Fenwick for Spurs?

Stand by for changes at Spurs when TERRY VENABLES takes charge on December 1.

The new White Hart Lane boss will have about £2 million for new signings and don't be surprised if his first move is for QPR skipper TERRY FENWICK.

It was Venables who took Fenwick to Loftus Road from Crystal Palace six years ago and he also wanted him at Barcelona.

Fenwick is a confirmed Venables fan and has been stalling over the new contract offered him by Rangers all season.

Second Division promotion chasers Middlesbrough are checking on the Mansfield defender TONY LOWERY



What's new?

IRWIN

Everton are showing a keen interest in St. Patrick's Athletic full-back CURTIS FLEMING. Curtis has earned a reputation as the new PAUL McGRATH in Ireland.



A Yank at Bournemouth

BRENT GOULET, the first American to play in the Football League, turned down a small fortune in order to sign for Bournemouth.

The 23-year-old striker from Tacoma reveals "The indoor game is really booming in the States, and it's possible to earn \$100,000 a year."

"But it has always been my dream to play in England and I wouldn't swap my one-year contract at Bournemouth for anything."



What a lot of Bull!

Optimistic Wolves have slapped a £1 million tag on striker STEVE BULL.

Liverpool and Manchester United have both checked on the 22-year-old hit man this season, but chairman DICK HODGEN says: "He is going nowhere unless somebody offers us a seven-figure fee."

YOU ARE THE REF



The star stiker has to dash off immediately after the game and won't be available for the post match Press Conference. Do you:

- Get a phone number where he can be contacted.
- Take down his quotes at half-time and sell them exclusively to The Sun, or
- Award an indirect free-kick and caution the player for ungentelemanly conduct?

ANSWER ON PAGE 47

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Super cooper

PAUL COOPER's move from Ipswich to Leicester has clearly not affected his remarkable ability to save penalties.

The veteran goalkeeper has now saved four of the six spot kicks he's faced for his new club and reckons to have kept out 54 throughout his career. "I'd rather be remembered for my all-round ability than as a spot kick expert," he says.

Mark Irwin knows **AT LARGE**

Ward out in Hammers swap

Struggling West Ham are ready to sign Bradford's highly rated **JOHN HENDRIE** in an exchange deal with **MARK WARD**.

Hammers boss **JOHN LYALL** is determined to find a partner for **TONY COTTEE** and I understand he's been in touch with Bradford about 24-year-old Hendrie.

City manager **TERRY DOLAN** has previously knocked down any interest in Hendrie (right) and midfield man **STUART MCCALL**, who has just signed a new contract at the Valley Parade.

But he will certainly be tempted by the offer of Ward, who has lost his way at Upton Park following a sensational first year at the club.



It seems that Liverpool-born Ward is keen on a return to the North and would be ready to consider an offer from a Bradford team currently clear at the top of the Second Division.

Manchester United centre-half **GRAEME HOGG** is set to join former boss **RON ATKINSON** at West Bromwich Albion.

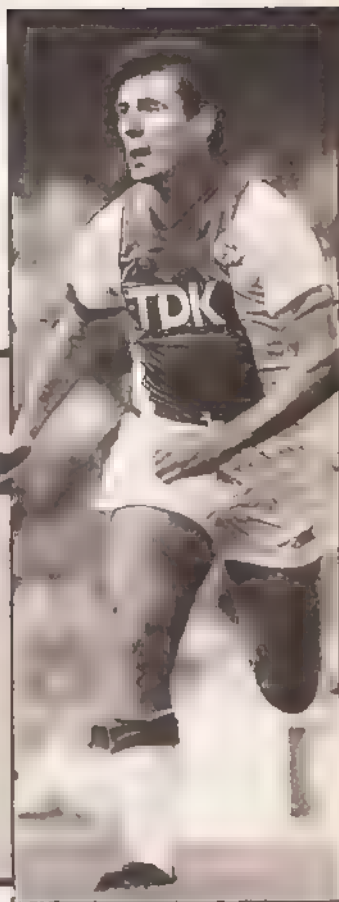
Hogg, who rejected a move to Manchester City earlier this season, will sign for Albion in a £180,000 deal at the end of his month's loan at The Hawthorns.

Stapleton to quit

FRANK STAPLETON may have to quit the game following a back operation.

The 31-year-old Republic of Ireland striker (right) only signed for Ajax from Manchester United in the summer but was looking for a return to England.

But the recent op has changed all that and it looks as though he'll now have to hang up his boots.



Best Ireland

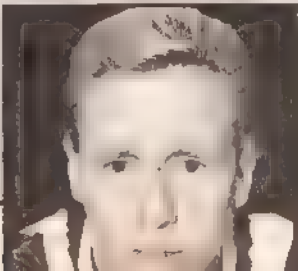
Would Irish soccer fans like to see Northern Ireland and the Republic join forces? Apparently not. On a recent show on Ulster TV, both **GEORGE BEST** and **DEREK DOUGAN** spoke in favour of an all-Ireland team, but the viewers voted overwhelmingly against the merger.

Duxbury (left): Glad to have handed on the number three shirt at Old Trafford.



Tinnion's torment

Newcastle full-back **BRIAN TINNION** (below) is hoping that **MIRANDINHA** doesn't quite understand what he's saying, but every time the two meet, the little Brazilian covers his face and shouts "ugly... ugly!"



Red faced Duxbury

MIKE DUXBURY is Manchester United's man for all positions, but he wasn't too happy when asked to play at left-back at the start of the season.

Explains Mike: "I felt embarrassed to be in the company of **ARTHUR ALKISTON** because he had done so much for the club and I had taken his place."

"At the end of the day I am a professional and will play where I am selected, but I'm glad to be back in midfield, which is my favourite position anyway."

Trev's BLOCKBUSTERS

Trevor Brooking looks at the big matches scheduled for this weekend and predicts the results of the First and Premier Division games. See if you can topple him...



EVERTON V. WEST HAM

THE Champions will expect three points against a West Ham side lacking confidence and firepower. There's also an Everton hoodoo on The Hammers. Their last League success at Goodison was a 2-1 win back in November, 1972.

The return of Gary Stevens after injury has made a great deal of difference to Everton. So has the midfield authority of Peter Reid (right).

How West Ham could do with a player of Reid's influence at the moment.

Playing full-back Ray Stewart alongside Alvin Martin has given the Hammers defence more stability.

But until manager John Lyall buys a big, strong partner for Tony Cottee West Ham are going to struggle.

Little winger Mark Ward began his career as an Everton apprentice and usually looks forward to a return to Goodison.

But I can't forecast much joy for him this time.



BEATBROOKING

FIRST DIVISION

		TREV'S TIP	YOUR TIP
Coventry	v Wimbledon	1	
Everton	v West Ham	1	
Man. United	v Liverpool	X	
(Live TV playing Sunday)			
Newcastle	v Derby	1	
Norwich	v Arsenal	2	
Nottm. Forest	v Portsmouth	1	
Sheff. Wed	v Luton	1	
Southampton	v Oxford	1	
Tottenham	v QPR	1	
Walsall	v Charlton	X	

PREMIER DIVISION

Aberdeen	v Hearts	1	
Celtic	v Dundee	1	
Dundee United	v Dunfermline	1	
Falkirk	v Morton	1	
Hibs	v Motherwell	1	
St. Mirren	v Rangers	2	

(1 = home win; 2 = away win X = draw)



ABERDEEN V. HEARTS

DESPITE losing the Skol Cup Final to Rangers, Aberdeen are as good defensively as any side in the Premier.

They are making steady progress in the League, but need to score more goals.

Having said that, striker Joe Miller is playing well enough to

attract the attention of Liverpool and other top clubs from South of the border.

With Jim Bett also in fine form, I tip Aberdeen to just edge this game, say 2-1.

But Hearts are on a long unbeaten run and they won't be pushovers.

PHONE

Shoot!

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Newcastle United	0898 12 11 90
Sheffield Wed	0898 12 11 86
Nottm Forest	0898 12 11 74
Birmingham City	0898 12 11 88
Southampton	0898 12 11 78
Portsmouth	0898 12 11 82
Derby County	0898 12 11 87
Oxford United	0898 12 11 72
Leicester City	0898 12 11 85
Sunderland	0898 12 11 40
Wimbledon	0898 12 11 75
West Ham	0898 12 11 65
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LAUGHLINES



"That's not fair - open your legs."

"When that simple cross came in - you should have grabbed it with both hands like this."

WORLD WIDE

Norwich swoop for Swedish pair

Norwich boss Ken Brown is planning a £750,000 double swoop in Sweden. Gothenburg pair Peter Larsson and Lennart Nilsson are his targets - and Brown had the pair watched during last month's Championship Play-Off matches against Malmö.

Central defender Larsson, 26, was selected by Terry Venables for the Rest of the World side that lost to the Football League XI at Wembley in August.

And he is particularly keen to play in the First Division after Gothenburg turned down offers from Italy and Spain.

Larsson has also been tracked by Sheffield Wednesday, Newcastle, Southampton and West Germany's Kaiserslautern, but will choose Norwich if he is joined by club-and-country team mate Nilsson.

The speedy 28-year-old striker is seen by Brown as an ideal partner for Kevin Drinker, as the club attempt to haul themselves clear of a relegation battle.



Moody Maradona

Moody Diego Maradona is refusing to speak to the Italian Press after sections of the media dared to suggest he was fat, lazy and tired.

With the Football League v Rest of the World match still fresh in the mind, I'd say that was a pretty accurate description. Ah well, there goes another contact.

Paulo looks to Futre

Atletico Madrid's Portuguese star Paulo Futre intends to invest some of his £500,000-a-year salary in building a leisure centre in his home town of Montijo, near Lisbon.

Futre plans to set up a luxury complex containing hotels, restaurants, discotheques, swimming pools and bars.



Send for Stuart

Sweden's most wanted player is Scot Stuart McManus, the former Southampton striker who is being tracked by most clubs in the Swedish First Division.

McManus struck ten goals in 26 games for Second Division side Gefle last season.

Only 111 of FIFA's 157 member countries have submitted entries for the 1990 World Cup in Italy. The draw for the qualifying rounds will be made in Zurich on December 12.

Racing Paris have off-loaded their Uruguayan star Ruben Paz to Argentina's Racing Club Avellaneda for a nominal fee. Paz, Paris' highest paid player, was unable to win a regular place.

Sepp is Der Kaiser II

Schmeichel is the new keeper for Bayern Munich. The Danish international has signed a three-year contract with the club. He will replace the injured German goalkeeper, Thomas Kretschmer. Schmeichel has played for several clubs, including Ajax and PSV Eindhoven. He is known for his strong shot-stopping abilities and his leadership on the field.

SPORTS



Shoot!

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MOUTH



PORTSMOUTH manager Alan Ball believes his side will only survive in the top flight if they absorb the lessons they have been taught so far in Division One.

"We're just upstarts," he says. "We have come from the junior school and now we are joining the big boys."

"Rule number one is to conform. We have to wear the blazer and tie for a couple of years."

Only when we have done that can we start to indulge in a more individual style of football. It will take time.

For the moment we must take no liberties and concentrate on establishing ourselves. We are learning all the time and, to do that, we have to be honest with ourselves.

Any players with illusions of superstardom will have to think again in order to fall in line with Ball's sound strategy.

My players must realise you

desire to see Pompey scale the heights of British football.

Certainly, a side led by former England international Ball will always have the necessary character to contend for the title.

"Pompey have never been short of that," Ball says. "We just missed out on promotion two seasons running, but while other teams who suffered the same frustration slumped to a mid-table position last term, our determination paid off."

"This year my side have shown immense character in coming to terms with the First Division. I told them right from the start there was no big bad wolf to be afraid of. But

there is nothing like finding something out for yourself.

Sure, it was tough at the beginning. Players were quickly punished for making mistakes at the back. But they have learned a few crucial lessons."

So will the Pompey upstarts make the grade and pass the examinations needed to survive their first term in the big school?

"Without a shadow of a doubt," answers Ball — and that's coming from the headmaster.



BOY OF THE C

'We're just upstarts'

ALAN BALL

have to earn the respect enjoyed by the really great teams in the First Division.

"We are getting better and better and we'll continue to do so because the team is growing in confidence. But all my men must be prepared to wait as long as it takes to be respected along with the best."

Alan Ball preaches caution in all matters. But sometimes his own volatile character can get the better of him.

Shockwaves

After the recent clash with QPR at Loftus Road, he sent shockwaves all the way down to Fratton Park by announcing he intended to leave Pompey because of a remark made by his chairman John Deacon.

"We got together the next day and talked it out," says Ball. "Now I am happy to say it is all history and buried forever."

Deacon displayed patience during that episode because he knows that Ball's fanatical dedication to his job can make him overexcitable at times.

But the two men have something in common — a burning

CLUB SPOTLIGHT POMPEY

POMPEY's Welsh international midfielder Barry Horne might take exception to Alan Ball's claim that his men are just out of junior school — super-smart Barry has a Masters Degree in Engineering from Liverpool University!

And the intellectual international from Flint in North Wales was fast becoming "Dr Barry Horne" until an offer from Wrexham wrecked his plan to be a professor and made him a professional footballer instead.

"Brains" Barry became a Bachelor of Science in 1983 and began a three-year PhD course which would have meant he'd be a student until he was 24.

Barry's so brainy

But in April, 1984 Wrexham made their move and Horne swapped his PhD for a one-year Masters, taking the exams that same summer.

Now Barry is concentrating



Blake's so gloomy

AFTER spending the first three months of the season sitting gloomily on the sidelines, Noel Blake is looking forward to making up for lost time.

The burly stopper's mean defensive partnership with Billy Gilbert was an important factor in the club's promotion last

season.

But Blake injured knee ligaments during the club's pre-season tour of Sweden and

found himself on the operating table while his team-mates were struggling to come to terms with Division One.

"It's been a nightmare," he says. "To miss out just when the club had returned to the First Division after years of trying is very frustrating.

"I still went in every day to do gymwork and keep in shape but apart from a couple of games I don't often watch the team.

often.

"I am a terrible spectator and tend to watch my former Pompey team-mate Mick Tait at Reading."

Blake must fight off the challenge of £70,000 buy Malcolm Shotton, signed from Oxford to plug the gap caused by Blake's absence, if he is to regain his place.

But Blake, who played in the top flight with Birmingham and Aston Villa says: "I believe in my ability. There are obviously better players in the First but I feel I am good enough to cope with them."

POMPEYFAX

Portsmouth, Fratton Park,
Frogmore Road, Portsmouth,
Hampshire, PO4 8RA.

Tel: 0705-731204

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Manager: Alan Ball

Year formed: 1898

Honours: League

Champions 1948-49, 1949-

50; Division Three (South)

Champions 1923-24;

Division Three Champions

1961-62, 1982-83;

FA Cup Winners 1939.

TOM BLASS



on football formations instead of complex calculations and Pompey's genial genius jokes "You could say I'm a late developer in football

"But with all that swatting I just didn't have a chance to play it any other way.

"I did a week at some of the big clubs when I was 16 and they seemed very interested.

"But I looked around and saw how few of my footballing friends were making it in the game then realised I had more to lose academically than most people if I took the gamble."

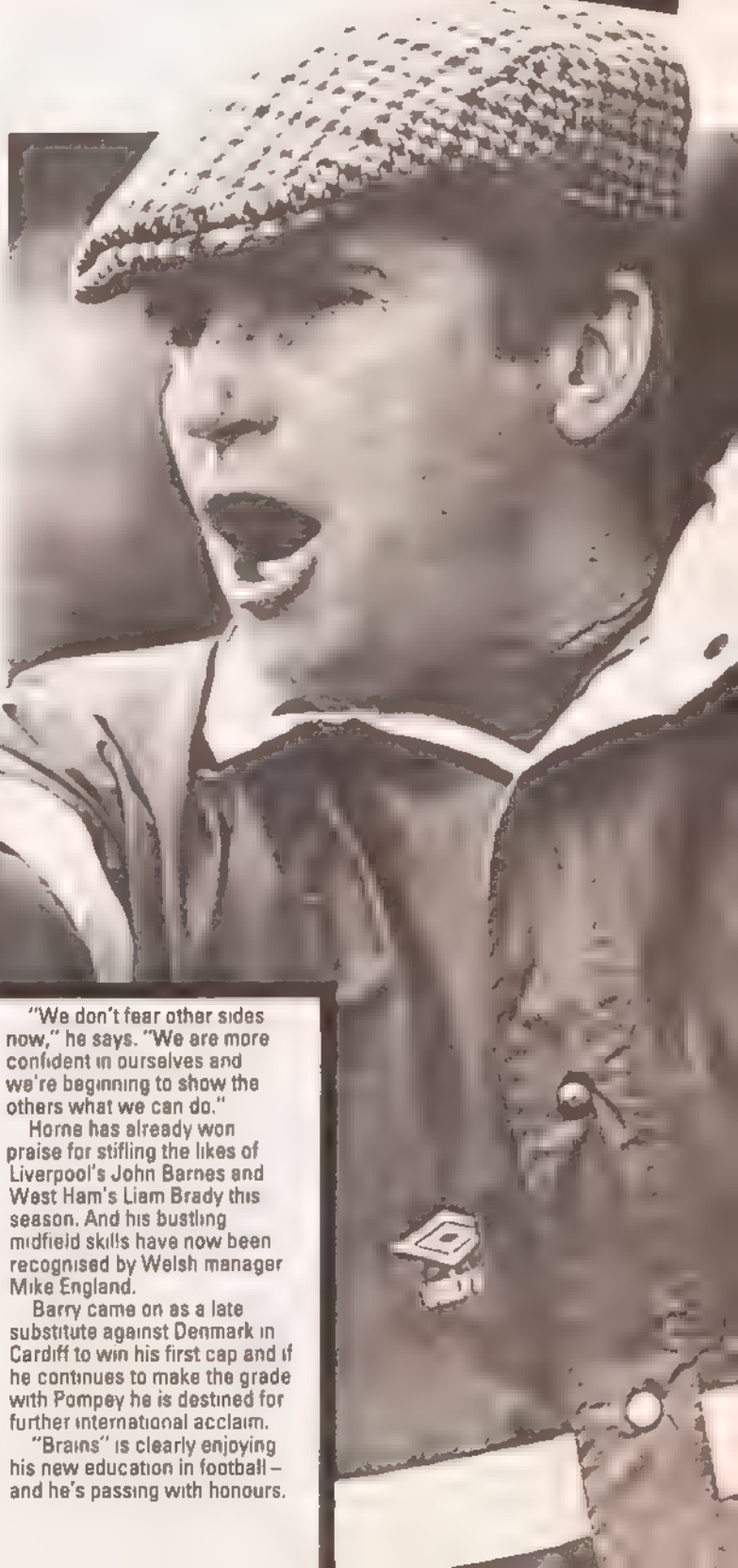
Now 25-year-old Horne is feeling the thrill of top flight football and coming on in leaps and bounds as Pompey find their feet in the First Division.

"We don't fear other sides now," he says. "We are more confident in ourselves and we're beginning to show the others what we can do."

Horne has already won praise for stifling the likes of Liverpool's John Barnes and West Ham's Liam Brady this season. And his bustling midfield skills have now been recognised by Welsh manager Mike England.

Barry came on as a late substitute against Denmark in Cardiff to win his first cap and if he continues to make the grade with Pompey he is destined for further international acclaim.

"Brains" is clearly enjoying his new education in football – and he's passing with honours.



SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

There are ten differences between the two cartoons. Can you find them?



Answers on page 34

Laughlines

"Wake up, boss, the game's over."



"Didn't I warn you about those slide tackles?"



"What do you mean - one off all off?"



"Sorry!"

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Pleat's problem

I hope the media are happy now they have forced David Pleat to resign as Spurs manager. Your comments please

CHRISTINE EVANS,
GLOUCESTER



They didn't force him to resign, they exposed an unhappy situation which was surrounding Pleat and he left because he felt it was the right thing to do. Now he has to rebuild his life and I genuinely hope he gets back into the game if that's what he wants. It's sad when these things happen, because after all nobody leads a monastic life and we've all got our skeletons hidden away

Rioch wanted

Bruce Rioch has been such a success as Middlesbrough manager that I'm sure it won't be long before he gets an offer to take over at a big club

PADDY ASHLEY,
BEECHWOOD, M'BORO.



If he can get Boro into the First Division, they have the potential to become as big as any other team in the game. If teams like Norwich and Southampton can survive with the big boys, there is no reason why Middlesbrough shouldn't be able to do it. And Rioch could be just the guy to lead them there.

This week's Star Letter and £10 winner comes from A. Peterson of Pinner Road, Harrow in Middlesex.

What's up, Rush?



What has gone wrong for Ian Rush? We all said he'd be a smash hit at Juventus, but it seems he's just another of our exported, expensive flops.



I didn't expect Rushie to struggle out on the pitch, but I knew he'd find it difficult to settle into the Italian lifestyle. The majority of Italian players are not earning a small fortune and get very jealous of the millionaire wages paid to star foreigners. I had terrible problems when I was at Inter Milan because although I was scoring goals, I hated my team-mates and they hated me. They wouldn't even talk to me, and I'd get so mad that I'd end up slugging them all off. I kept asking myself what I was doing out there when I could be down at the local having a pint with the lads and I'm sure Ian must be thinking the same thing. After a few months I'd had enough and came back home, and that is what Rush must do if he's really unhappy in Turin. It's stupid to waste good years of what is a very short career. Ian's problem is that Liverpool are doing so well without him that they probably wouldn't pay the money to get him back, and very few others could afford to buy him.

McMad!

I'm a West Ham fan living in Scotland and was furious that my TV company screened the Skol Cup Final instead of The Hammers against Manchester United as enjoyed by the rest of Britain

ROSS CAMPBELL,
POWFOOT, ANNAN



And I'm an Englishman who was furious that I couldn't watch the Rangers v Aberdeen game because ITV, in all their wisdom, had decided to broadcast a very run of the mill First Division fixture. I'm sure the vast majority of soccer fans South of the Border would have preferred to see the Skol Cup Final. You should count yourself lucky.



Harford's not worth it

Anyone who pays £1 million for Luton's Mick Harford must be crazy. He's certainly not in the Gary Lineker class

TOM SHAUGHNESSY,
CASTLEREA, CO. ROSCOMMON



I wouldn't pay a million for anyone, but if I were manager of a top club Harford would be number one on my wanted list. Every club needs a big, strong centre-forward and Harford (above) is just about the best around at the moment.

Saint's cover up

You recently claimed that Ian St. John wears a wig, but I don't believe it. Surely The Saint is smart enough to grow old gracefully

DAVOOD ESLAMI,
EARLSDOON, COVENTRY



I'm afraid not. The wig he wears in front of the cameras is kept under lock and key at the London Weekend studios. Off screen he wears his 'informal' toupee, which is more grey. The third wig he doesn't like to talk about, but it's ginger and black and he puts it out at night with a saucer of milk.



WALLY OF THE WEEK



I was very disappointed to see that the winner of the Wally of the Week competition was not me. I was sure I had a good chance of winning. I was very disappointed to see that the winner was not me. I was sure I had a good chance of winning.

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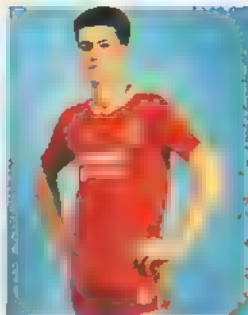


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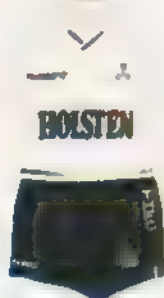
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Hero Houchen fights back

Wembley hero Keith Houchen confidently expected last season's FA Cup Final triumph to be the signal for his career to take off.

But the 27-year-old striker, who lists water skiing among his hobbies, has not made quite the splash for which he'd hoped.

As Coventry City have toiled to recapture last season's sparkle, so Houchen has struggled to get among the goals.

The fact that he's not been a regular in the side hasn't helped his cause but this amiable man from Middlesbrough remains philosophical about it all.

Other players who'd helped their club win the FA Cup with one of the most spectacular goals seen in a Wembley Final might well have slapped in a transfer request by now.

But Houchen insists: "There's no problem - I'm not down or anything.

"Of course I want to be in the first team but I knew when the club paid £750,000 for David Speedie in the summer I had a fight on my hands. You don't fork out that sort of cash on a player and then not include him in the side.

"For the moment at least I've just got to grit my teeth and hang on in there. It's a bit frustrating and disappointing because last season should have really set me up for this season.

"It just hasn't happened but I still know in my own mind I'm good enough for the First Division.

"The one thing I did do last season was prove I can live in this League. I've signed a new two-year contract with Coventry and my target is to establish myself in the side again, have a decent run and get among the goals.

"It was always going to be tougher this season - for the team and for me. Other clubs knew what to expect.

"And to be fair we haven't had the best of luck either so far this

season. We have had a load of injuries to key players and the absence of Trevor Peake in the defence has hit us hard.

"His experience and composure at the back was vital and without him we have been letting in more goals than we should have done.

"We have hit a patch of inconsistency and made a rod for our own backs by losing matches at home. And the Littlewoods Cup defeat by Luton hit us hard.

"We keep asking ourselves if it is a hangover from Wembley but I honestly don't think it is, although we are not playing the same sort of football we were last season.

"We've just got to battle our way out of it and from my point of view I've got to fight to get a regular place in the side and then knock in a few goals as well.

"Towards the end of last season I reckon I played as well as any forward in the country and proved a lot to myself. Now it looks as though I'll have to prove a few things to other people as well."

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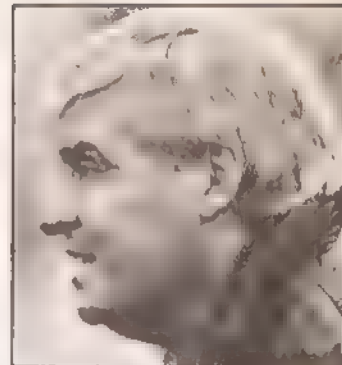
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Cyril smiles again

Torquay boss Cyril Knowles is learning how to smile again just months after threatening to quit football.

The former Spurs and England left-back admits he was deeply disillusioned after getting the sack from Darlington last season.

"I don't think I'll ever get over the episode," says Cyril, whose successes at Darlington included promotion to Division Three and a famous FA Cup victory over rivals Middlesbrough.

"I was out looking for new players and the directors were gathering to decide to boot me out.

"And all this after I had turned down two approaches from Second Division clubs through loyalty to Darlington.

"It took ages for the club's decision to sack me to sink in. I couldn't bring myself to go to a football match for a while afterwards."

Now Knowles is showing Darlington what they missed as he turns around the fortunes of the South Coast club who only just avoided relegation from the Football League last season.

They are in the hunt for promotion from the Fourth Division and scored a memorable 1-0 Littlewoods Cup victory over Knowles' old club Spurs.

Hart's back on the beat

NOT too many players can claim to have been transferred while in the process of recovering from a broken leg, but John Barnwell knew what he was doing when he paid Birmingham City a modest fee for Paul Hart.

The 34-year-old former Leeds, Forest and Sheffield Wednesday central defender suffered a compound fracture after just 32 minutes of his debut appearance for The Blues on New Year's Day.

But having satisfied himself that Hart was on the road to recovery, Barnwell stepped in to take him to Meadow Lane as player-coach in June and the manager says: "This is the most important signing I will make for Notts County."

Influence

Hart finally made his County debut against Fulham at Craven Cottage in September ... and has immediately had a big influence on a defence which had been conceding goals at an alarming rate.

Hart says: "The opportunity to get involved in coaching was very attractive and although it's always been my intention to move in that direction, the chance came earlier than I expected.

"I want to continue playing as long as I can. In that sense, my ambitions stretch as far as any of

the players at Meadow Lane and I'm very fortunate in having a great opportunity to learn the coaching and management side of the game at the same time.

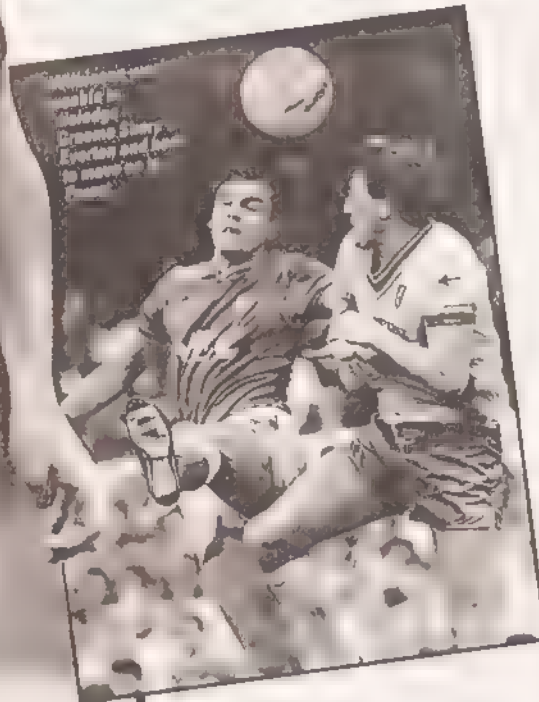
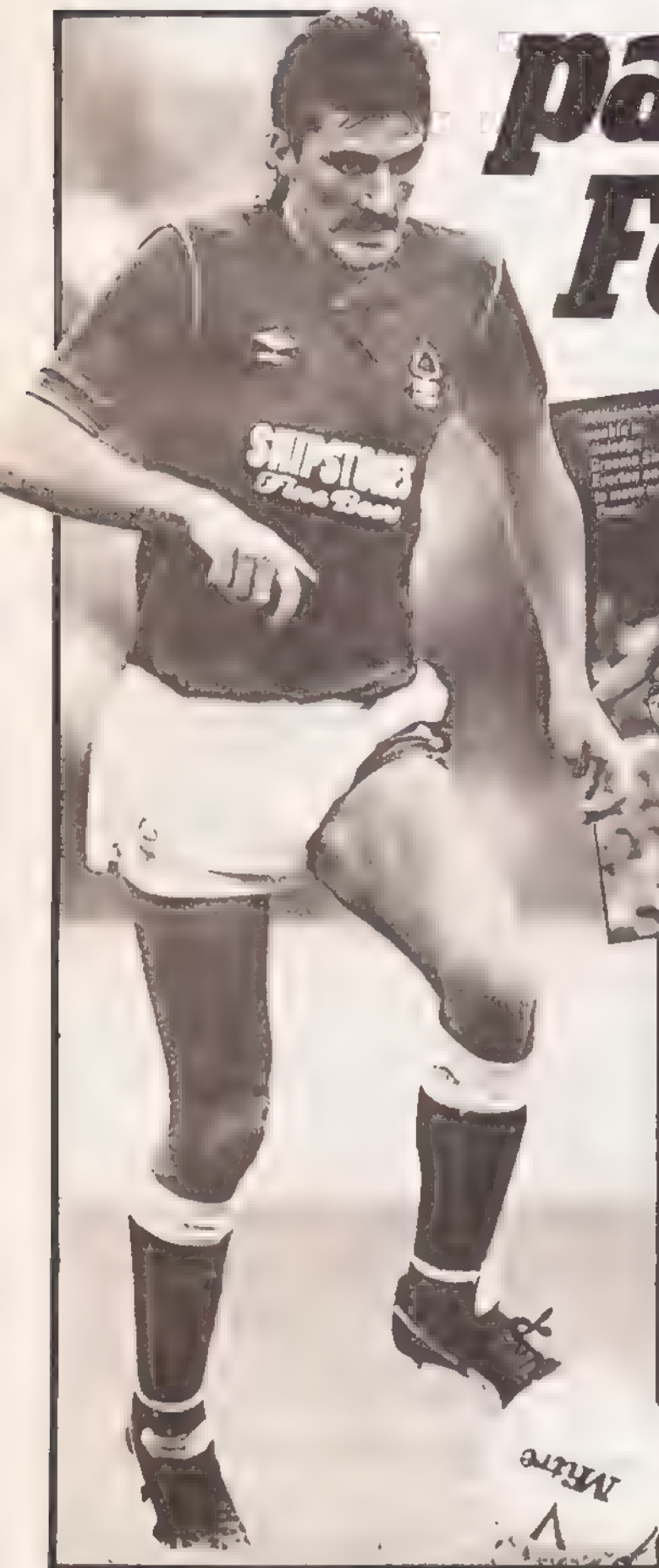
"The idea is that I should take some of the weight off John Barnwell's shoulders but at times that's easier said than done because he's as keen as mustard."



Mac's double



Wilko's debt to patient Forest



worry me too much not scoring in them

because I was finding my feet at a new club and at that particular

time the team were struggling a little bit

"But it was different at the beginning of this season because it was my opportunity to start afresh and I must admit I was having a rough time.

"I had to keep battling away in the hope of getting a break

and happily that's just what happened.

"I got a goal against Chelsea in September and since then I've been averaging one in two games, which is what every striker looks to achieve.

"I had never had a problem getting goals at Grimsby and Everton and now that I've settled down properly in Nottingham I hope I can keep the run going here.

'Style'

"My confidence has shot up and I am coming to terms with the different style of a new team.

"Obviously I'm enjoying my football now and the way the team have been playing, we feel we are capable of keeping the momentum going."

But Wilkinson, who found his path to a first team place at Everton blocked by Graeme Sharp and Adrian Heath, must have thought he was in danger of being edged out by Cloughie.

He added: "A lot of people expected the boss to leave me out because I was not scoring but he kept faith with me and I would like to think I am now paying him back. It's up to me to keep doing that and also to say thank you to the fans who did not get on my back.

"Supporters want to see new signings do well straight away but the Forest fans were understanding. Now I'd like to think I've got them on my side."

Paul Wilkinson was in danger of becoming a £275,000 flop with Nottingham Forest until 13 turned out to be lucky for him.

It took the former Everton striker that number of games to break his goalscoring duck with Forest, but since then the goals have been flowing again.

Says Wilkinson: "The fact that I had not got a goal was beginning to get to me this season and I was thankful when one eventually came my way.

"I had a few games for Forest at the end of last season but it didn't

QUIZ ANSWERS: 1. Pat Jennings. 2. Ipswich. 3. 19. 4. Everton. 5. Birmingham. 6. 1983. 7. Queen's Park. Hampden Park. 8. Barcelona. 9. Crystal Palace. 10. 36-0. 11. Arsenal. 12. 26 stone. 13. 6 seconds. 14. Ipswich and Arsenal. 15. They were both goalkeepers. 16. France. 17. False, it was 14 hours 14 minutes. 18. Brian Clough. 19. League Cup Final. 20. Real Madrid.

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE ANSWERS: Referee's shoe flash missing. Player's moustache missing. Sponge in physio's bag missing. Player's stud missing. Referee's watch missing. Stand support missing. Player's shirt has short sleeves. Referee has more hair. Physio's trouser stripe missing. Player's sock pulled up.

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MY GOALS WITH CHARLTON

Charlton new boy Andy Jones knows he'll need a miracle this season if he's to land another SHOOT/adidas Golden Shoe award.

But as he keeps a tight grip on the handsome trophy earned by his 29 Third Division goals for previous club Port Vale last term, he admits: "I'd love to win another one of these!"

And the Welsh international striker once discarded by Wrexham is quick to add: "It would be great to do it in the First Division - but first of all I want to help make sure we stay there."

But if the burly 24-year-old concedes the remainder of the current campaign will be spent plotting the Londoners' route to safety, his long-term ambitions extend well beyond mere survival.

He explains: "I haven't come to Charlton to fight relegation year after year. I know how ambitious the club are to establish themselves in the First Division and I'm exactly the same."

"This year it's all about gaining just as many points as we need to be safe. But next season we'll be looking to shock a few sides and finish in the top half of the table."

Charlton boss Lennie Lawrence took the £300,000 plunge for goal ace Jones after his side's disastrous start to the season and remains confident his investment will pay off.

Jones couldn't hide his disappointment at not providing an instant dividend - he waited five games before grabbing his first goal in Division One at Oxford. But he promises: "I'll

pledges Andy Jones

deliver the goods once I've found my feet in the First Division. I won't let Charlton down."

"My game is all about scoring goals but the boss has seen other aspects he can develop and I'll be an even better player with his help and encouragement."

Jones was watched by a host of top clubs before Charlton made their move and didn't have any qualms about joining a club who only escaped by the narrowest of margins in last season's play-offs.

"I went on record as saying I'd love to join Everton if I had my pick," he recalls, "but once I knew of Charlton's interest I wasn't going to hang around and see if anyone else came in for me."

'I'll show Everton they were wrong to turn me down'



"The way I look at it is that they had their chance. I hope to show them what they're missing by doing the business for Charlton."

Port Vale had good reason to be grateful for Jones' prolific scoring rate last term. Bottom of the Third Division at Christmas, his goals helped them climb to twelfth place.

And Jones believes history can

repeat itself. "I'm sure everyone connected with Charlton would be quite happy if we finished twelfth in the First Division this season," he laughs.

"I really believe we can do it if we get the breaks. We're not like some teams where you find certain cliques of players and others who don't seem to fit in. We all believe in pulling together."

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although we're not kidding ourselves that our task is easy.

He's not short on confidence but is honest enough to confess: "I'm not the most skilful player in the world. But I've enough faith in my ability to know I can score goals in the First Division.

"I'm not just a six-yard box merchant, although it's nice to be there and snap up the chances when they come along.

"I'm strong and pack a useful shot in either foot and since I joined Charlton my touch has improved and I've become better in my reading of the game.

"I don't believe in setting targets for myself but I can't deny I'll be shattered if I can't score enough goals to keep Charlton in the First Division. That's what I want most of all."

Manager Lawrence, who refuses to sign a three-year contract until results have improved, will appreciate that sort of confidence. For if he is to survive at Selhurst Park, it's Jones who can do most to keep him there.

GOLDEN SHOTS

When Andy Jones put Port Vale 5-0 ahead at Fulham last season it was by no means a classic effort.

"Six yards out, an easy side-foot into the net," he remembers. So why does he nominate this one as his own particular favourite?

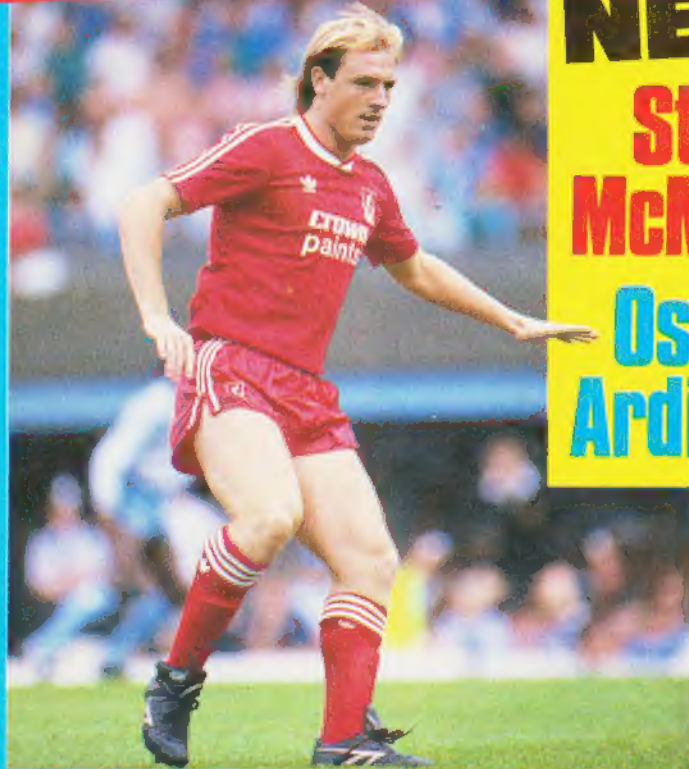
"Simple really," he adds. "It was my third that day and completed my first hat-trick in the League. A special moment in my career."

"I was under review by Wales in that game and four days later I won my first cap against Finland when we won 4-0 and I scored the fourth.

"I'll never forget that day at Craven Cottage. We eventually won 6-0 and I was on cloud nine!"



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Colin West has swapped another Championship race for a relegation dogfight – with no regrets.

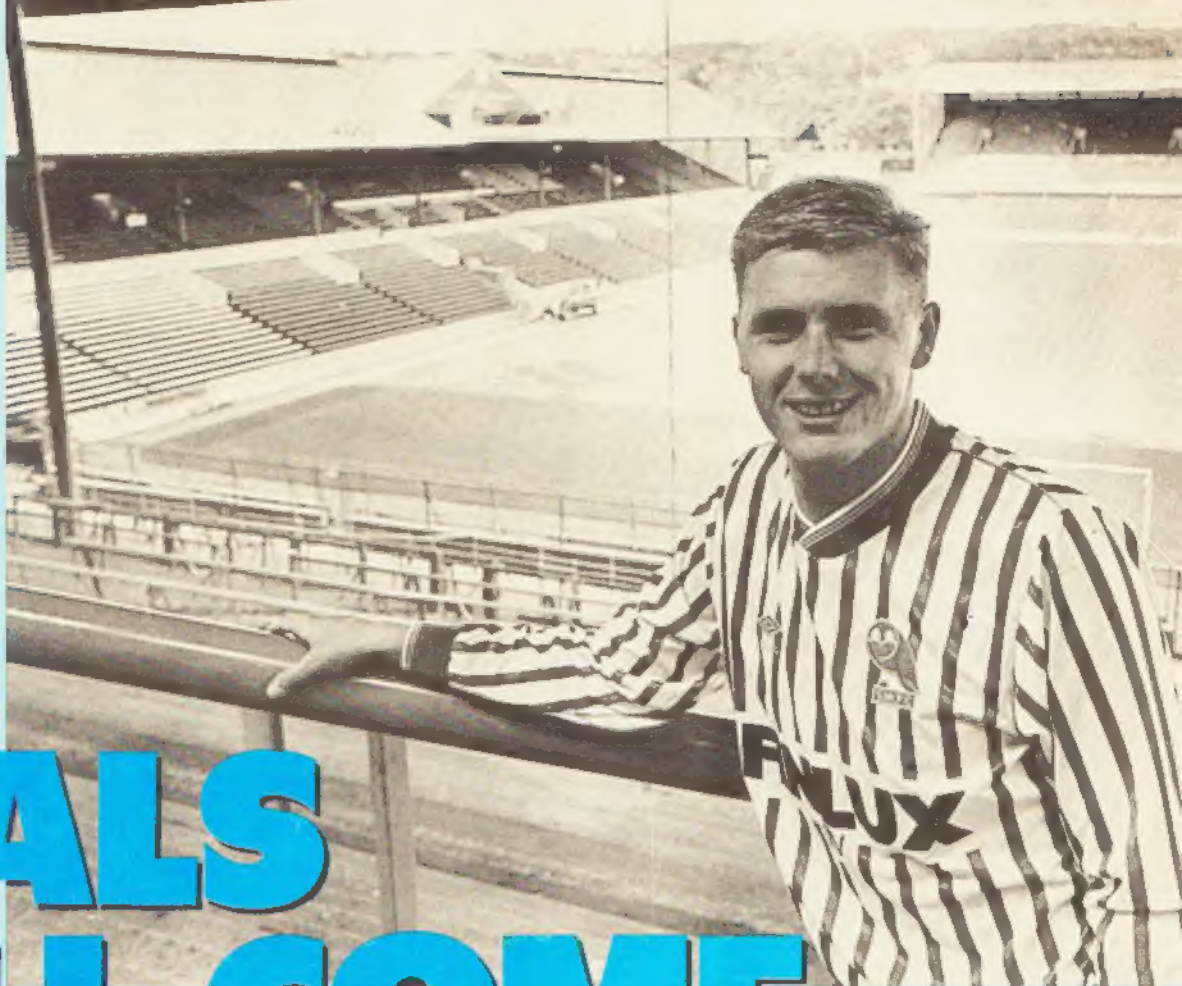
Sheffield Wednesday's newest striker is proud of his role in helping Rangers land the Scottish Premier Division Championship last season.

And that despite the fact that he suffered a serious leg injury after only half a dozen games following his £200,000 move to Ibrox from Watford.

"It was a real sickener," he says, "because I'd scored two goals in those appearances and I was shaping up well.

"Then fate struck and I was sidelined until November and it was almost spring before I got back into the action and then mostly as sub.

"Still, it was good to be part of Graeme Souness' set-up and I was looking forward to a new season when Wednesday manager



GOALS WILL COME

West's vow to Wednesday

Howard Wilkinson came in for me.

"Although I had absolutely no regrets about going to Scotland I felt that as Rangers had signed Mark Falco, a similar player to me, it might be a good chance to get back into the English First Division."

Now he's at Hillsborough the powerful Tynesider's priority is to help them climb out of the relegation zone. Five goals in his first ten games proves that he has regained his goal touch.

He's optimistic about The Owls clinging to their First Division perch. In fact he says he will be

surprised if they don't finish well up the table.

But he admits: "We've a lot on our plate because of our poor start to the season, but now we've found our rhythm we'll be OK.

"In the past when I played for Watford, Wednesday were always sparkling, pressurising opponents

who'd pin you back. It's been different this time.

"Having our backs to the wall has meant we haven't done ourselves justice. But it will come."

The amiable 23-year-old spearheads the attack with another big target man, Lee Chapman, who spent a brief period with West at Sunderland.

West recalls: "We only played in the same team once or twice at Roker but I admired Lee's style. We're both target men who can shift when necessary and we're both hungry for goals.

"I was a bit surprised when Howard Wilkinson wanted us to play in the same team but we soon struck up an understanding and I think we'll get quite a few goals.

'Surprised'

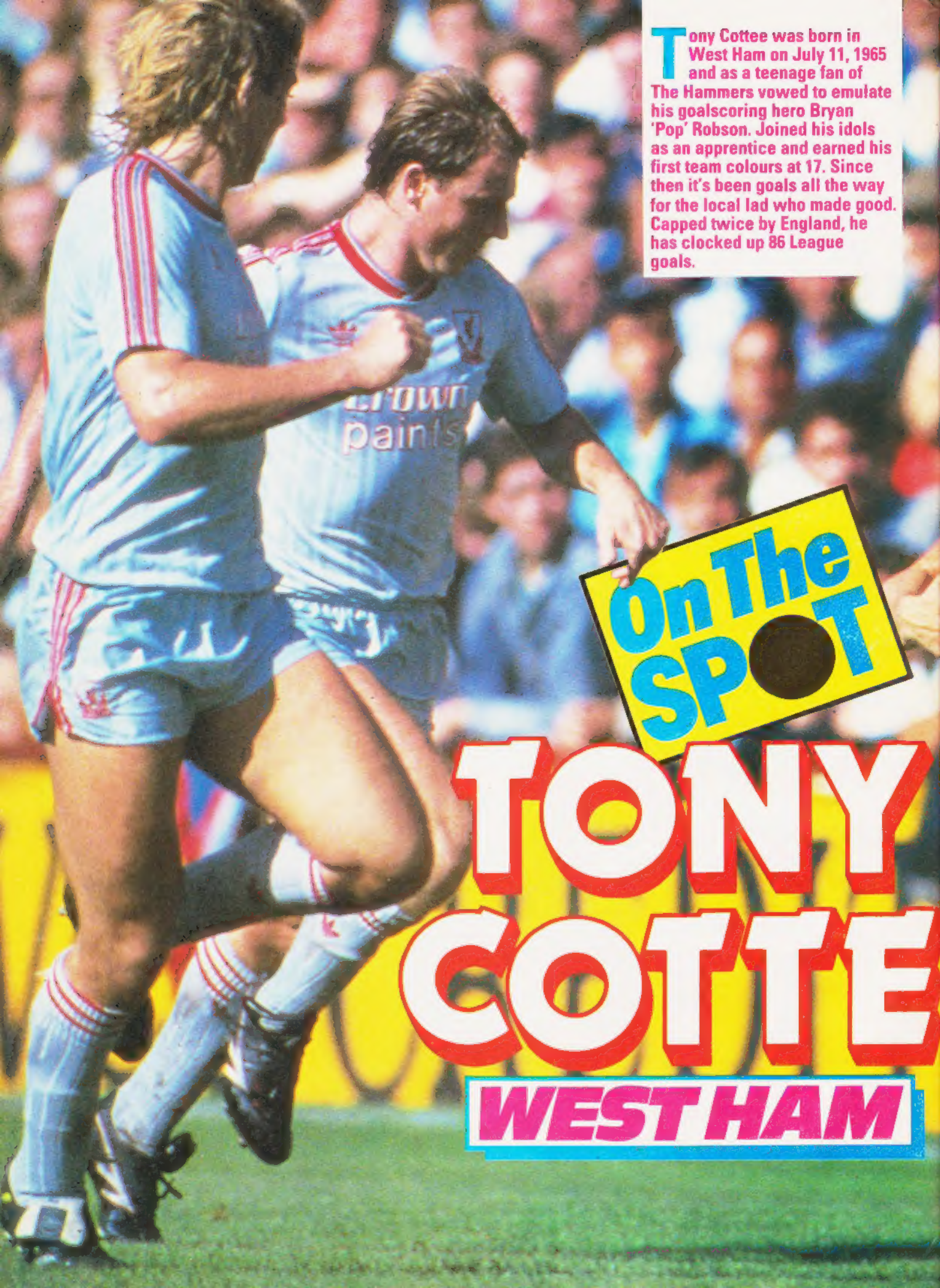
"Wednesday's style suits the pair of us. The boss has opted for two wingers, Mark Chamberlain and Tony Galvin, which means there is plenty of service for two big strikers working in tandem.

"It's in both our interests to hit it off with a good supply of goals otherwise one of us might find himself on the sidelines if a change of tactics is decided upon.

"There are a couple of highly-promising youngsters in David Hirst and Carl Bradshaw, who are only 19, breathing down our necks."



West's goals have helped Wednesday recover from a dreadful start.

A full-page photograph of Tony Cottee, a West Ham player, in a light blue kit with red and white stripes on the sleeves and shorts. He is running on a green pitch, looking down. The background is a blurred crowd of spectators.

Tony Cottee was born in West Ham on July 11, 1965 and as a teenage fan of The Hammers vowed to emulate his goalscoring hero Bryan 'Pop' Robson. Joined his idols as an apprentice and earned his first team colours at 17. Since then it's been goals all the way for the local lad who made good. Capped twice by England, he has clocked up 86 League goals.

**On The
SPOT**

**TONY
COTTEE**

WEST HAM

What is the worst game you have ever played in?

That doesn't really take much thinking about because it only happened a few weeks ago. The 5-2 Littlewoods Cup defeat by Barnsley (at home!) was the most humiliating experience of my career – especially as we were 2-0 up at one stage.

Have you been happy in your 'lone ranger' role since Frank McAvennie

left West Ham?

No, not really. It's put extra pressure on me to score goals. Put me alongside a big target man and I'll be much happier – and more prolific.

What is your most embarrassing moment?

When I was sent-off while playing for the England Under-21s in West Germany this season. When the referee showed me the red card I didn't

know whether to cry, hit him or run. The walk back to the touchline was agony – especially with Dave Sexton and Bobby Robson waiting for me.

Apart from being a prolific goalscorer, what other claim to fame do you have?

I once took on snooker star Steve Davis in front of the TV cameras – and won! It was during a 'Cockney Snooker Classic' and I was the guest celebrity, and although he gave me a 90-point start I did manage a couple of decent breaks.

How do you like to relax?

Playing snooker or golf (although I'm not too hot at the latter) and listening to music.

What sort of music do you like?

Most types of soul music. My favourites are Luther Vandross, Alexander O'Neill and Kool and The Gang.

Do you go to many concerts?

I went to see Stevie Wonder recently and I'm looking forward to watching Alexander O'Neill live before Christmas.

If you hadn't made the grade as a footballer what do you think you would be doing now?

It's an odds-on bet that I'd be working as an insurance broker in my father's business, but I would have preferred something more exciting, like a fireman.

What other sports did you excel at during your schooldays?

Without wishing to boast, I was pretty good at most things – a natural sportsman, you might say. I did enjoy athletics and was once the Essex junior 800 metre champion.

Who has had the biggest influence on your career?

My father, Clive. He was an amateur footballer with Clacton and East Ham and is an FA coach so, as you can imagine, he has been right behind me.

What has been his best piece of advice?

When I was a teenager and all my friends were starting to discover girls, discos and booze he warned me of the dangers – and it's paid dividends. I much preferred playing football in the park to going to smokey discos.

What's the worst thing anyone has ever written about you?

I don't get too much criticism in the Press, but it does annoy me when I'm mis-quoted or the headline doesn't fit the story – like the one that said I'd been involved in a punch-up with Billy Bonds. It was just a training ground scuffle which happens every day all over the country.

Would you ever consider leaving London for the North?

Not unless Manchester United, Everton or Liverpool were interested in me. I'm a London lad and if I was going to move to another English club I would prefer to stay in the capital, but for the moment I've settled my differences with West Ham and I'm happy to stay at Upton Park.

But you haven't ruled out the possibility of playing abroad one day?

No, it's something I've always wanted to do and hopefully in a few years' time I'll get the opportunity.

What does the immediate future hold for Tony Cottar?

Once my three-match international ban is out of the way I'd like to get back into the England reckoning and, on the domestic front, I'm looking to score my 100th League goal for West Ham before the end of the season.

West Ham had a traumatic start to the season, but do you think you have turned the corner?

I'm sure we have, and the way we came back in the game against Manchester United should help our confidence. We won't win the League, but relegation is also out of the question.

